MVA gets new board member, elects officers. PAGE 2
PSS New & Aspiring Leaders Program celebrates successful 3rd cohort graduation. PAGE 3

Hafa Adai!

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Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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Court denies motion to convert IPI's bankruptcy to Chapter 7

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The NMI Bankruptcy Court has denied the CNMI government's motion to convert Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC's Chapter 11 Bankruptcy to a Chapter 7 Bankruptcy which essentially means the liquidation of all IPI's property and assets to pay off debts. *See COURT on Page 4*

Voice of America terminates its contract with DPL

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The U.S. Agency for Global Media, which operates the Robert E. Kamosa Transmitting Station that broadcasts the Voice of America transmission to Asia, has officially informed the *See VOICE on Page 4*

BABY LAUNDRY BASKET DONATION

Soroptimist International Northern Mariana Islands Chapter recently donated baby laundry baskets to the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.'s medical social worker department. From left, SINMI president Tania David, CHCC's Imma Litulumar, SINMI past president Maureen Sebangiol, CHCC's Nei Satur Camacho, SINMI secretary Erika Ann Palacios, and CHCC's Tina Snodgrass. SINMI said social workers assess the needs for families of newborns that may need a bit of additional love and support and are gracious enough to act as SINMI's partner for the distribution of their donation. This program has been going on since 2023 with nearly 20 baskets donated thus far. SINMI is grateful for the donations received from D&Q International as well as from the club's membership.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

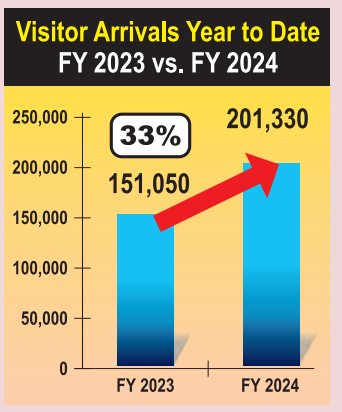
MVA: $2.6M appropriated budget inadequate

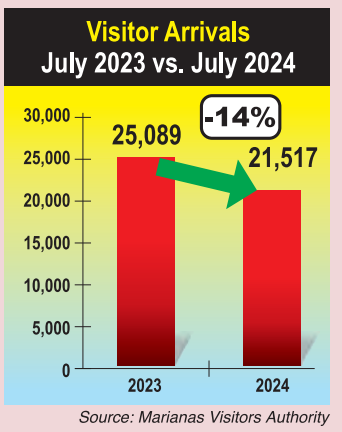
By CHRYSTAL MARINO
chrystal_marino@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

Concepcion

The Marianas Visitors Authority is up in arms after the House of Representatives only appropriated $2.697 million to the tourism body for fiscal year 2024-2025.

Following yesterday's board meeting, MVA managing director Christopher A. Concepcion *See MVA on Page 4*





Source: Marianas Visitors Authority

CNMI visitor arrivals at 21K in July 2024

According to monthly statistics from the Marianas Visitors Authority, arrivals to the islands of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota decreased 14% to 21,517 visitors in July 2024, compared to 25,089 visitors received in July 2023. Monthly arrivals are 53% lower compared to pre-pandemic *See VISITOR on Page 4*

INSIDE

BUSINESS

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce, in collaboration with the Department of Labor's Workforce Investment Agency Office and the CNMI Public School System, hosted the Career Exploration Summer Internship End-of-Program Appreciation Luncheon last Aug. 16.

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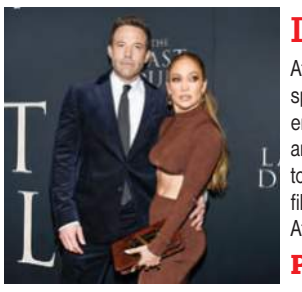
NATION

Warning of a difficult fight ahead, former President Barack Obama and Michelle Obama on Tuesday called on the nation to embrace Kamala Harris in urgent messages to the Democratic National Convention that were at times both hopeful and ominous.

PAGE 10



LIFE & STYLE

After a relationship that spanned two decades, two engagements, two weddings and headlines too numerous to count, Jennifer Lopez has filed for divorce from Ben Affleck.

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SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.

GOT A NEWS TIP? TEL: 235-6397 / 235-2440 FAX: 235-3740 EMAIL: editor@saipantribune.com

Local

MVA gets new board member, elects officers

The Marianas Visitors Authority held an election of board officers yesterday at its monthly board meeting.

The board affirmed Gloria Cavanagh of MB Capital Corp. to continue as chairperson, Jamika Taijeron of DFS Saipan to continue as vice chairperson, and Marvin Deleon Guerrero of Bank Pacific to continue as treasurer. Vicky Benavente of Benavente & Associates was voted to serve as secretary.

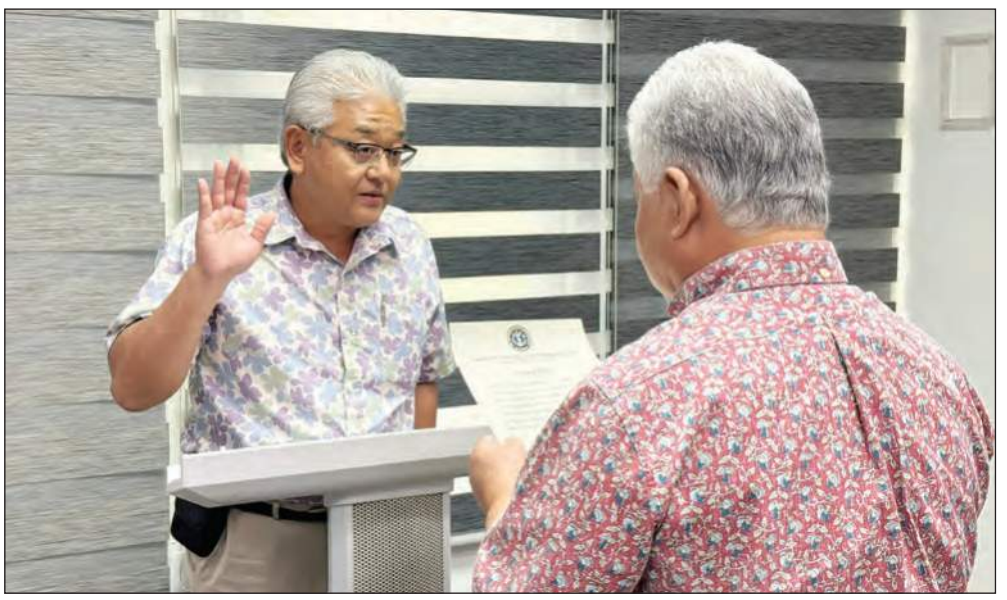
Cavanagh, Benavente, and Masaru Sunaga were sworn in as board members last Aug. 20 by Gov. Arnold I. Palacios following their election to the board at the MVA general membership meeting in July, along with Ivan Quichocho of Tan Holdings Corp.

"We welcome director Vicky Benavente to the board of directors and the position of secretary," said Cavanagh. "With her experience and knowledge of the MVA—it's processes and procedures—it's welcomed knowledge that will help us our in decision-making moving forward."

Four members of the board of directors are elected bi-annually by MVA members. Five members of the board are appointed by the governor and include Taijeron, Deleon Guerrero, Warren Villagomez representing Tinian, and Sachiko Gerrard of Aqua Resort Club Saipan; the appointment for Rota representative is pending Senate approval. ***(PR)***

MVA

Gov. Arnold I. Palacios swears in Gloria Cavanagh of MB Capital Corp. to the Marianas Visitors Authority board of directors on Aug. 20, 2024, at the Office of the Governor on Capitol Hill. Cavanagh was also elected to continue as board chairperson at the MVA board meeting on Aug. 21, 2024.



MVA

Gov. Arnold I. Palacios swears in Masaru Sunaga of PMT Tours to the Marianas Visitors Authority board of directors on Aug. 20, 2024, at the Office of the Governor on Capitol Hill. Sunaga was re-elected to the board at the MVA general membership meeting in July 2024.

MVA

Gov. Arnold I. Palacios swears in Vicky Benavente of Benavente & Associates to the Marianas Visitors Authority board of directors on Aug. 20, 2024, at the Office of the Governor on Capitol Hill. Benavente was elected to serve as board secretary at the MVA board meeting on Aug. 21, 2024.

Over 20 individuals on prosecution witness list for Abraczinskas trial

By CHRYSTAL MARINO
chrystal_marino@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

The Superior Court has officially scheduled the jury trial for former law clerk William Abraczinskas to begin on Sept. 9, 2024. The trial will be presided over by judge pro tem Elyze Iriarte.

In an order on May 30, 2024, Iriarte underscored the importance of cooperation between the parties in preparing for the proceedings.

The prosecution, led by assistant attorney general Frances T. Demapan under the guidance of Attorney General Edward Manibusan, has listed an array of key figures expected to provide testimony during the trial. The extensive witness list was e-filed on Aug. 12, 2024, naming over 20 individuals, including law enforcement officers, civilian witnesses, and even Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo is named as a potential witness.

The trial is expected to reveal the full scope of the allegations and the defense's counterarguments.

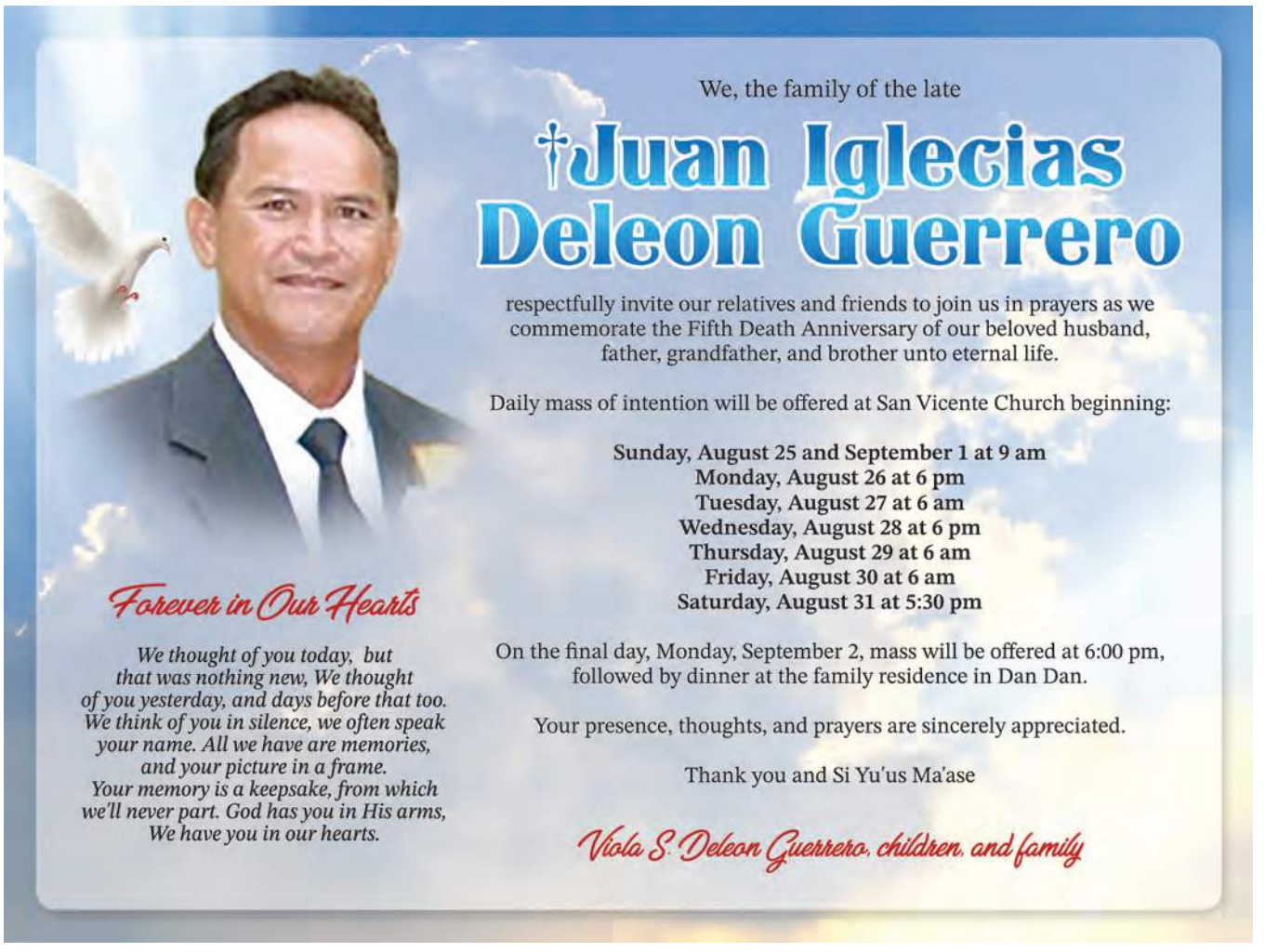
As the trial date approaches, the court has set several deadlines to ensure a smooth process. By Aug. 16, 2024, both the prosecution and defense are required to submit jury instructions, proposed verdict forms, and a list of pre-marked exhibits. Moreover, the pre-trial conference is scheduled for Aug. 30, 2024, where both parties will address any contentious legal issues and finalize preparations for the trial.

Abraczinskas is facing serious charges after a fellow court employee accused him of rape and has been formally charged with sexual assault in the first degree, assault and battery, and disturbing the peace. He has denied all allegations and entered a plea of not guilty.

The complaint, filed on May 26, 2023, details an account by the alleged victim, who walked into the police station to report that Abraczinskas had sexually assaulted her on April 8, 2023 at Beach Garden Apartments.

The court employee also informed investigators that she discovered Abraczinskas had lodged a sexual harassment complaint against her with the Judiciary's human resources office.

The report implied that it was after confiding in her supervisor and discussing the alleged assault with human resources that she found the strength to approach the Department of Public Safety and share her account of the events.


We, the family of the late
†Juan Iglecias Deleon Guerrero
respectfully invite our relatives and friends to join us in prayers as we commemorate the Fifth Death Anniversary of our beloved husband, father, grandfather, and brother unto eternal life.
Daily mass of intention will be offered at San Vicente Church beginning:
Sunday, August 25 and September 1 at 9 am
Monday, August 26 at 6 pm
Tuesday, August 27 at 6 am
Wednesday, August 28 at 6 pm
Thursday, August 29 at 6 am
Friday, August 30 at 6 am
Saturday, August 31 at 5:30 pm
On the final day, Monday, September 2, mass will be offered at 6:00 pm, followed by dinner at the family residence in Dan Dan.
Your presence, thoughts, and prayers are sincerely appreciated.
Thank you and Si Yu'us Ma'ase
Viola S. Deleon Guerrero, children, and family
Forever in Our Hearts
We thought of you today, but that was nothing new, We thought of you yesterday, and days before that too. We think of you in silence, we often speak your name. All we have are memories, and your picture in a frame. Your memory is a keepsake, from which we'll never part. God has you in His arms, We have you in our hearts.

PSS New & Aspiring Leaders Program celebrates successful 3rd cohort graduation

PSS
Education Commissioner Dr. Lawrence Camacho, center, poses with the graduates of the New & Aspiring Leaders Program of the Public School System.

The New & Aspiring Leaders Program of the Public School System has accomplished another significant milestone with the graduation of its third cohort. The program is the main initiative for educational leadership development that the school district has invested over a decade ago in the growth of the local workforce by developing homegrown education leaders.

The program is designed to equip new and future educational leaders with essential skills and first-hand leadership experiences.

A total of 12 participants completed the rigorous eight-course curriculum: Andrew Romolo Orsini, Marianas High School vice principal; Preston Basa, MHS vice principal; Juana Atalig, Sinapalo Elementary School vice principal; Jolene Aguon, Kagman High School teacher; Kate Borja, William S. Reyes Elementary School teacher; Doris Marie Castro, Special Education Program teacher; Francine Cruz, Dandan Middle School teacher; Joseph Muna, William S. Reyes Elementary School teacher; Nadia Murphy, Chacha Oceanview Middle School teacher; Leora Nigirablosch, Admiral Herbert G. Hopwood Middle School teacher; Freddy Salavaria, Kagman High School teacher; and Deana Villagomez, Dandan Middle School teacher.

This program allows educators and new leaders to enhance their leadership capabilities and make a meaningful impact within the K-12 education system. The program, spanning eight comprehensive courses, covers critical areas including instructional leadership, technology for school leaders, educational law, school personnel, school finance, supervision and evaluation, and facilitative leadership, preparing participants to tackle the evolving challenges in educational leadership.

The commencement ceremony, held on Aug. 8, 2024 at the William S. Reyes Elementary School cafeteria, featured special remarks from PSS leaders, Education Commissioner Dr. Lawrence Camacho, 18th CNMI State Board of Education member Andrew Orsini, Instructional Technology and Distance Education director Lorraine Catienza, ALP participant speaker Leora Ngirablosch, and Kagman High School principal and ALP Cohort 2 graduate Benjamin Jones Jr. Also in attendance were ALP instructors and mentors who played an integral role in the leadership development of program participants.

"We are excited to celebrate the achievements of our ALP graduates," said Camacho. "Each of these individuals has demonstrated exceptional commitment and leadership growth. Their dedication to advancing educational excellence will benefit the schools and communities they serve.

"Congratulations to our phenomenal and outstanding ALP Cohort 3 graduates," the education chief added. ***(PR)***

NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING

for
Hong Ye Rental and Construction Ltd.
Conditional Use Application #2024-2319

The Public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board Public Hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. **Hong Ye Rental and Construction Ltd.** proposes to occupy & utilize a former quarry site consisting of approximately 45,324 square meters for "Mining". This use is permitted in the district as a Conditional Use. The site is located on **Lots 003 J 03 & 019 J 104** in Dandan village. This area is zoned as **Rural**.

A public hearing will be held on:

Date: **September 05, 2024**
Time: **2:00 pm**
Place: **Governor Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center**

Comments on the proposal may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may be submitted directly to the Zoning Office before 3pm, September 04, 2024. Please send written comments via e-mail to zoningboard@cnmizoning.com, via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or deliver them to the Zoning Office, at 5911 Chalan Pale Arnold, Chalan Laulau (former IT&E).

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq.) and the Amended Saipan Zoning Law of 2013.

/s/ Henry S. Hofschneider, Chairman

NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING

for
DJ3D LLC
Conditional Use Application #2024-2146

The Public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board Public Hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. **DJ3D LLC** proposes to occupy & utilize an existing space measuring **39' 8" (L) x 45' 11" (W)** for "Gas Station, Light Repair (Automotive Air Conditioning & Refrigeration)". This use is permitted in the district as a Conditional Use. This site is located on **Lot 016 H 44** in the **Chalan Kanoa** village and is zoned as Village Commercial.

A public hearing will be held on:

Date: **September 05, 2024**
Time: **2:00 pm**
Place: **Governor Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center**

Comments on the proposal may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may be submitted directly to the Zoning Office before 3pm, September 04, 2024. Please send written comments via e-mail to zoningboard@cnmizoning.com, via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or deliver them to the Zoning Office, at 5911 Chalan Pale Arnold, Chalan Laulau (former IT&E).

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/s/ Henry S. Hofschneider, Chairman

CEDA
COMMONWEALTH ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
P.O. Box 502149, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 234-6245/6293/7145/7146 • Fax: (670) 235-7147
www.developcnmi.com

PUBLIC NOTICE
Thursday, August 22, 2024

PURSUANT TO PUBLIC LAW 8-41, THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION DIVISION (DCD) OF THE COMMONWEALTH ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (CEDA) THRU ITS CHAIRMAN HEREBY INFORMS THE GENERAL PUBLIC THAT THE DCD BOARD OF DIRECTORS WILL HOLD ITS REGULAR MEETING ON TUESDAY, AUGUST 27, 2024 AT 2:00 P.M.. THE MEETING WILL BE HELD AT THE CEDA CONFERENCE ROOM, FIRST FLOOR, CEDA BUILDING, OLEAI, SAIPAN. THE AGENDA FOR THIS MEETING IS AS FOLLOWS:

AGENDA

I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS
  A. Call to Order
  B. Roll Call
  C. Adoption of Agenda
  D. Adoption of Minutes – April 19, 2024
II. PUBLIC COMMENTS
III. REPORTS
  A. DCD Financial Status
IV. NEW BUSINESS
  A. Loan Matters (Board Action)
    1. Gregorio Castro
    2. Ignacio Cabrera
    3. Greenflash, LLC
V. EXECUTIVE SESSION
VI. ADJOURNMENT

All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written or oral testimony on the above agenda items. (Note: Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13(a)(7) and Section 1(c), the Board may vote to meet in executive session.)

/s/ FRANK LEE SN. BORJA
Chairman

NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING

for
Conditional Use Application #2024-1924
SPP LLC dba RozFx

The Public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board Public Hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. **SPP LLC dba RozFx** proposes to utilize a portion within an existing one-story building with floor area measuring **22' 0" (L) x 21' 6" (W)** for its "Cannabis Manufacturing and Processing" Use. The site is located on **Lot 039 L 50 & 039 L 51** in the village of **Obyan.** This area is zoned as **Rural.**

A public hearing will be held on:

Date: **August 29, 2024**
Time: **2:00 pm**
Place: **Multi-Purpose Center, Susupe, Saipan**

Comments on the proposal may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may be submitted directly to the Zoning Office **before 3pm, August 27, 2024.** Please send written comments via e-mail to zoningboard@cnmizoning.com, via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or deliver them to the Zoning Office, at 5911 Chalan Pale Arnold, Chalan Laulau (former IT&E).

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq.) and the Amended Saipan Zoning Law of 2013.

/s/ Henry S. Hofschneider, Chairman

NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING

for
Conditional Use Permit #2020-14923
American Xiong's Corporation dba Angel Market

The Public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board Public Hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. **American Xiong's Corporation dba Angel Market** proposes to amend its previous approved *Conditional Use Permit 2020-3847* to include a new use of *Flower/Floral Shop* on the ground floor of its existing building & to construct a 2nd floor extension measuring **84' 6" (L) x 40' 6" (W) x 24' (H)** for its *"Single-Family Dwelling"* use. The site is located on **Lot 002 G 16** in the village of **Kagman.** This area is zoned as **Village Residential.**

A public hearing will be held on:

Date: **August 29, 2024**
Time: **2:00 pm**
Place: **Multi-Purpose Center, Susupe, Saipan**

Comments on the proposal may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may be submitted directly to the Zoning Office **before 3pm, August 27, 2024.** Please send written comments via e-mail to zoningboard@cnmizoning.com, via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or deliver them to the Zoning Office, at 5911 Chalan Pale Arnold, Chalan Laulau (former IT&E).

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq.) and the Amended Saipan Zoning Law of 2013.

/s/ Henry S. Hofschneider, Chairman

'RB' introduces program to Precinct 4 business community

By RACQUEL H. FLOYD
raxfloyd@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

RACQUEL FLOYD

Saipan Mayor Ramon B. "RB" Camacho poses with the business community of Precinct 4. From left Xu Bin of Welcome Market, Xu Xung Yi of Zhen Yu Capitol Market, Lito Dizon of Saipan Ice & Water Co., Elizabeth Ganang of New I Mart, Lee Wen Hee of Capitol Hill Market, and Cecilia Gapach of San Roque Market.

Saipan Mayor Ramon B. "RB" Camacho held a meeting yesterday afternoon with the business community of Precinct 4 at the Saipan Mayor's Office conference room.

Camacho proposed to the business community of Precinct 4 the creation and establishment of a non-profit organization that will involve various businesses. The organization that will be formed aims to support the community and its initiatives.

"Somebody's working and assisting me to lay out those non-profit chart forms for all the businesses from different precincts so we can create a non-profit group. Maybe we'll all chip in to build that foundation and maybe we decide and the businesses decide how to use this money and where to use this money."

He added that the uniqueness of the program will bring together business owners and employees to work and communicate.

The proposal was already presented to precincts 1, 2 and 3 businesses earlier this year and, according to Camacho, they will support it.

In the meeting, Camacho discussed his vision of promoting a safe, clean, and green community on Saipan. He also discussed the importance of businesses and the need to balance their interests with the wellbeing of the community.

He also mentioned the success of his Adopt-A-Place project wherein he announced that HanNam Supermarket will adopt the Koblerville Basketball Court. Adopting the Koblerville Basketball Court aims to provide a safe and constructive space for children in the community.

Camacho also discussed his goal of uniting the island's community through fostering collaboration among various groups. The mayor believes that by promoting unity, crime and drug abuse will decrease as residents look out for one another. This also includes his promotion of the Neighborhood Watch campaign.

Meanwhile, product labeling in stores was one of the problems mentioned by Lito Dizon of Saipan Ice & Water Co. He said that there are stores selling products with non-English labels and that it's actually illegal and the same is true for food products with no expiration dates.

Other concerns raised during the meeting include rude customers, unwanted customer behavior in the store, and homeless loitering outside the store that drives away customers.

The mayor said that his office will be a liaison to the business community and the feedback they receive will be discussed with the responsible government agencies.

Aside from Dizon, Cecilia Gapach of San Roque Market, Lee Wen Hee of Capitol Hill Market, Elizabeth Ganang of New I Mart, Xu Xung Yi of Zhen Yu Capitol Market, and Xu Bin of Welcome Market were also in attendance.

VOICE

From page 1

Department of Public Lands that it will be terminating its 25-year lease agreement.

Last week, USAGM disclosed that it would cease operations of its Robert E. Kamosa Transmitting Station in the CNMI after decades in operation.

According to DPL Secretary Teresita Santos, as of last week, USAGM has officially informed DPL of their intent to terminate the public land lease on Saipan for the Aguiguan property, but there is no definite date yet.

"We have met in regard to their intent to terminate their lease with DPL, referring to the Aguiguan property. They are terminating their lease so that would become a vacant public land property in the event they terminate their lease agreement. After that, DPL would have to take the necessary steps like sending out an RFP of the property," she said.

According to DPL Compliance Division director Gregory Deleon Guerrero, DPL will soon be responding to UGAGM's letter pursuing nonrenewal.

"They have turned in a letter stating they are not pursuing a renewal of their lease with DPL and right now it's under review and we will be responding to that letter. As for their land lease on Tinian, the land is under a military lease that they have on a long-term basis," he said.

Last week, in a letter form USAGM's William S. Martin, director of operations and stations division, a big change is taking place at the U.S. Agency for Global Media's Robert E. Kamosa Transmitting Station.

"The change is a discontinuation of all shortwave radio transmissions at our Saipan and Tinian sites, the first step in closing the station," he said.

According to Martin, on June 26, the USAGM—an independent federal agency that oversees the Voice of America, Radio Free Asia, and other U.S. funded international civilian broadcasters—announced it was closing REKTS, its two shortwave radio transmission sites, on Saipan and Tinian.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

VISITOR

From page 1

levels of July 2019, when arrivals reached 45,570 visitors.

Visitor arrivals from South Korea registered 15,978 in July, 23% lower than July 2023. In July 2023, the Marianas had received an extraordinarily high number of visitors and flights from South Korea—154 flights from Seoul Incheon and Busan combined—when flights to Guam were transferred to Saipan following a major typhoon in Guam. July 2024 saw 108 flights from Seoul Incheon amid a return to average visitor arrivals for the month. During the peak summer season, Jeju Air has added an additional flight from July 17 to Aug. 18 to capture high travel demand, making three daily flights on the Incheon-Saipan route by Jeju and one daily flight by T'Way. Visitors from Korea comprise 75% of all arrivals to The Marianas.

Visitor arrivals from Japan registered 647 in July 2024 compared to 898 visitors in July 2023, a 28% decrease. However, load factors on the Tokyo-Saipan flight registered healthy numbers at nearly 70%. This is due to the new flight schedule being more convenient for Japanese and transit passengers from the U.S. mainland. The strong U.S. dollar and weaker Japanese yen—coupled with a weak Japanese economy—continue to influence travelers to choose non-U.S. or domestic destinations. United Airlines flies three times weekly from Tokyo-Narita to Saipan as the MVA works to remain top-of-mind among consumers until conditions for overseas travel improve. Japan was once a top source market for the Marianas.

China arrivals in July 2024 reached 2,037 compared to 1,075 arrivals in July 2023. Prior to the pandemic, China was the second largest source market of visitors to the Marianas with multiple direct flights a week from five cities. Hong Kong Airlines now flies twice weekly between Hong Kong and Saipan

In July the Marianas also received 1,204 visitors for the United States, 1,006 visitors from Guam, and a combined 645 visitors from all other markets. ***(PR)***

COURT

From page 1

During a status conference last week on IPI's bankruptcy proceedings, Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona denied the CNMI government's previous motion to convert IPI's Chapter 11 Bankruptcy to a Chapter 7 Bankruptcy.

While Chapter 11 Bankruptcy allows for a business/individual to reorganize and restructure, Chapter 7 Bankruptcy essential means the complete liquidation of a business' property and assets which may result in the company's dissolution.

The CNMI government, through Office of the Attorney General chief solicitor Robert Glass Jr., asked the court to withhold its ruling to which the court declined.

In addition, the bankruptcy court judge denied the U.S. Trustees' alternative request (dismissal) finding that it is not in the best interest of IPI creditors or the estate.

"Dismissal is not warranted at this time. Case is to proceed as a Chapter 11 liquidation," said the judge.

As for the U.S Trustees' request for the court to appoint a Chapter 11 trustee, the court did not decide stating that the request would require a separate notice and hearing.

In related news, IPI has filed a motion asking the court to approve bid procedures for sale of substantially all of IPI's assets.

According to the motion, IPI and a committee of IPI creditors have finalized the terms of a proposed sale of essentially all of IPI's assets to a "stalking horse purchaser."

A "stalking horse purchaser" essentially agrees to buy all of a debtor's assets subject to higher and better bids and subject to approval by a bankruptcy court.

The motion named Loi Lim Sit as the proposed "stalking horse purchaser," the same individual who agreed to loan IPI $1.4 million in debtor-in-possession financing.

The motion further states that the "stalking horse purchaser" has agreed upon a purchase price of $10 million for all of IPI's assets.

The assets to be acquired includes all tangible property, accounts, machinery, equipment, inventories, tenant improvements, goodwill, software and computer programs, hardware, intellectual property, company names, product names, trade names, prepaid expenses, and more.

Manglona has scheduled a status conference on the matter for Nov. 20, 2024.

MVA

From page 1

said the budget they would be getting for the coming fiscal year is simply inadequate to carry them through 2025.

"We cannot manage anything with that kind of money," he succinctly said as $2.697 million is a mere 1/12th of what MVA originally asked for which was $12.5 million.

With less than $3 million for FY2024 to FY-2025, he added the funding won't be enough for MVA's plans to boost tourism not only from its current markets, but expand the marketing of the CNMI as a tourist destination to other regions.

Coming into budget deliberations, MVA justified the $12.5-million budget ask since half of that funding will be coming from the Hotel Occupancy Tax with the other half coming from local appropriations.

MVA chair Gloria Cavanaugh agreed with Concepcion and said the tourism body is actually entitled to 80% of the Hotel Occupancy Tax by law.

"That's below what we're looking as far as our projections go for the 80% of the Hotel Occupancy Tax, which is by law, [Public Law 18-1] which gives us the 80% of the Hotel Occupancy Tax. So based on our projections, that's where we go to almost $6 million that we would be collecting for MVA's budget. We did ask for an additional appropriation of $6 million. Of course, that would put us into basically full gear to try to go after hopefully a third market. Unfortunately, it doesn't look like we're going to get that appropriation, but we need at least the 80% of the Hotel Occupancy Tax."

She added that with just a $2.697-million budget, the MVA will essentially have its hands tied behind its back when it comes to promoting the CNMI to new markets.

"That will only pay for offshore offices or offshore marketing. It's impossible to actually manage with that amount... During COVID-19, when everything was closed down that's almost exactly what we got. But now that we're open, we actually need marketing funds and that doesn't cut it."

Ultimately, Concepcion said the MVA wants to improve the CNMI as a destination, but with an inadequate budget for the coming year, that seems off the table as well.

"There's a lot of work that needs to be done. At the end of the day, we're hopeful that the House and Senate understand the importance of the work that the MVA does for the economy and that we can't do this work without active funding. So, if they give us the 80% of the Hotel Occupancy Tax, that will help us continue on with our mission," he said.

As the lone economic driver of the CNMI, the MVA is vital in the recovery of the islands' economy, but it won't be able to fulfill that task without adequate funding.

"Our goal is always to increase visitor arrivals to sustainable levels where the industry is able to breathe and generate sufficient revenue to fund operations and improve properties. Our goal is to increase visitor arrivals so that we get more of them at the time and that helps fund our marketing efforts overseas," said Concepcion.

3 educational opportunities for farmers this week at UOG

Expert Panel on Poultry & Livestock Production
Experiences and Strategies from Taiwan
Gain valuable insight on poultry, waterfowl, and livestock production from four distinguished visiting professors from Taiwan, each a leading expert in animal science. They will share cutting-edge knowledge and practical strategies to help farmers and ranchers in Guam elevate their expertise and build a network with industry leaders.
KEY TOPICS
• Poultry/water fowl production
• Cost analysis of caged vs. free-range chicken
• Waste management
• Principles of cooling livestock dormitories
Speakers:
Dr. Yi-Chun Lin
Assistant Professor
National Chung Hsing University
Dr. Ya-Shiou Chang
Associate Professor
Chinese Culture University
Dr. Deng-Cheng Liu
Professor Emeritus
National Chung Hsing University
Dr. Chuen-Yu Cheng
Assistant Professor
Tunghai University
Saturday, Aug. 24
10 a.m. - Noon
Room 127, Agriculture & Life Sciences Bldg., University of Guam
Register here!
https://rb.gy/aca40q
UNIVERSITY OF GUAM
COOPERATIVE EXTENSION & OUTREACH
CHINESE CULTURE UNIVERSITY

The agricultural community and related agencies and organizations are invited to several opportunities this week to learn from and engage with visiting health, agribusiness and agritourism, and livestock experts. The experts are visiting from Taiwanese universities in affiliation with University of Guam Cooperative Extension & Outreach. All events are free to attend.

Farmer-Focused Community Health Seminar

- 1pm-4pm
- Thursday, Aug. 22, at Village of Donki's Island Lounge
- Saturday, Aug. 24, at University of Guam Class Lecture Hall

Registration link: https://url.uog.edu/health-seminar

Who should attend: Farmers, ag workers, and Guam residents

This seminar will highlight how to prevent common health issues in Guam. Led by extension faculty of the UOG Farmer Focus Project and Prevent T2 diabetes education program in collaboration with visiting faculty from the National Taipei University of Nursing & Health Sciences, topics will include:

- eating a balanced and nutritious diet
- preventing diabetes and chronic diseases
- coping with and preventing depression
- exercises to combat age-related or diabetic-induced loss of muscle mass.

For more information, contact Harley Edeluchel at (671) 735-2020 or edeluchelh@triton.uog.edu.

Expert Panel on Poultry & Livestock Production: Experiences & Strategies from Taiwan

- 10am-noon
- Saturday, Aug. 24
- UOG Agriculture & Life Sciences Building, Room 127

Registration link: https://rb.gy/aca40q

Who should attend: Livestock farmers, agriculture professionals

Leading experts in animal science from National Chung Hsing University, Chinese Culture University, and Tunghai University will share valuable insight on poultry, waterfowl, and livestock production in Taiwan. They will share practical and successful strategies from Taiwan's livestock industry that may help farmers and ranchers in Guam with the success of their operations. Topics will include:

- poultry and waterfowl production
- the profitability of raising caged vs. free-range chicken
- management of livestock and poultry waste
- cooling livestock dormitories.

For more information, contact Glenda Hall at (671) 735-2062 or ghall@triton.uog.edu.

Strategies for Sustainable Agriculture International Seminar

- 10am-noon
- Saturday, Aug. 24
- UOG Agriculture & Life Sciences Building, Room 125A

No registration required.

Who should attend: Growers of fruit and vegetable crops in Guam and tourism industry leaders

This seminar will highlight sustainable approaches in pest management and plant disease control as well as opportunities in tourism for agriculture producers. Faculty and students of Taiwan's National Chung Hsing University and National Pingtung University of Science & Technology and UOG extension agents will give several presentations including:

- Agritourism in Taiwan from the Agribusiness and Tourist Perspectives
- Homestay and Rural Tourism Management in Taiwan
- Integrated Pest Management
- Dragon Fruit Cultivation and Pest Management
- Application of a Product Traceability System (from Production to Customer)

For more information, contact Harley Edeluchel at (671) 735-2020 or edeluchelh@triton.uog.edu. ***(PR)***

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: SEPTEMBER 5, 2024 TIME: 10:00AM (CHST)

Procurement of Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) Equipment (Supply, Install, Train, Test, Commissioning and Preventive Maintenance Service)

RFP24-CHCC/ CAS-027

INTERESTED PARTIES CAN DOWNLOAD THIS REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FROM THE CHCC WEBSITE [WWW.CHCC.HEALTH]. ONCE AT THE SITE, NAVIGATE TO **REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS** TAB ON THE LEFT NAVIGATION BAR. CLICK ON THE URL FOR THIS RFP. YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO ENTER DATA TO ALLOW US TO TRACK ALL REQUESTS FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY.

THE CHCC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSAL AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN ANY PROPOSAL, IF TO DO SO SHALL BE IN THE INTEREST OF THE CHCC. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OF THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION.

/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ CORA P. ADA
DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY

Commonwealth Zoning Board Meeting

Commonwealth Zoning Board Meeting
Thursday, September 05, 2024 | 2:00 PM
Multipurpose Center • Beach Road, Susupe
Tel: 670-234-9661/2 • Fax: 670-234-9666
E-mail: ZoningBoard@cnmizoning.com

AGENDA

A. Preliminary Matters
1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Adoption of 09/05/24 Meeting Agenda
4. Adoption of 08/29/24
5. Communications
6. Public Comments *(not for items to be discussed in item B. Public Hearings)*

B. Public Hearings:
1. **Conditional Use Application #2024-2146 – DJ3D LLC** proposes to occupy & utilize an existing space measuring **39' 8" (L) x 45' 11" (W)** for "Gas Station, Light Repair (Automotive Air Conditioning and Refrigeration)". This use is permitted in the district as a Conditional Use. This site is located on **Lot 016 H 44** in the **Chalan Kanoa** village and is zoned as Village Commercial.
2. **Conditional Use Application #2024-2319 - Hong Ye Rental and Construction Ltd.** proposes to occupy and utilize a former quarry site consisting of approximately 45,324 square meters for "Mining". This use is permitted in the district as a Conditional Use. This site is located on **Lots 003 J 03 and 019 J 104** in Dandan village and is zoned as **Rural.**

C. Old Business
1. None

D. New Business
1. Government regulatory agencies team to address public nuisances

E. Report from Zoning Administrator
1. Operations (Permitting and Enforcement)
2. Office Updates

F. Report from Legal Counsel

G. Executive Session

H. Announcements

I. Adjournment

/s/Henry S. Hofschneider, Chairman

Commonwealth Zoning Board Meeting

Commonwealth Zoning Board Meeting
Thursday, August 29, 2024 | 2:00 PM
Multi-Purpose Center • Susupe, Saipan
Tel: 670-234-9661/2 • Fax: 670-234-9666
E-mail: ZoningBoard@cnmizoning.com

AGENDA

A. Preliminary Matters
1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Adoption of 08/29/24 Meeting Agenda
4. Adoption of 07/11/24 Meeting Minutes
5. Communications
6. Public Comments *(not for items to be discussed in item B. Public Hearings)*

B. Public Hearings:
1. **Conditional Use Application #2020-14923 – American Xiong's Corporation dba Angel Market** proposes to amend its previous approved *Conditional Use Permit 2020-3847* to include a new use of *Flower/Floral Shop* on the ground floor of its existing building and to construct a 2nd floor extension measuring **84' 6" (L) x 40' 6" (W) x 24' (H)** for its "Single-Family Dwelling" use. The site is located on Lot 002 G 16 in the village of **Kagman**. This area is zoned as Village **Residential.**
2. **Conditional Use Application #2024-1924 - SPP LLC dba RozFx** proposes to utilize a portion within an existing one-story building with floor area measuring **22' 0" (L) x 21' 6" (W)** for its "Cannabis Manufacturing and Processing" Use. The site is located on **Lot 039 L 50 & 039 L 51** in the village of **Obyan.** This area is zoned as **Rural.**

C. Old Business
1. Parking regulations in Garapan Core (GC), Garapan East (GE), Village Commercial (VC), and other zoning districts

D. New Business
1. None

E. Report from Zoning Administrator
1. Operations (Permitting and Enforcement)
2. Office Updates
   a. Nuisance Abatement and Blighted Properties Maintenance Act of 2018 Regulation
   b. Proposed Text amendments to the Saipan Zoning Law of 2013

F. Report from Legal Counsel

G. Executive Session

H. Announcements

I. Adjournment

/s/Henry S. Hofschneider, Chairman

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
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MEMBER

The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Yes, more schools should ban student cellphones

This year's hottest back-to-school trend is one most students won't like: cellphone bans.

A growing number of districts across the country have enacted, or plan to enact, prohibitions on students using their mobile phones during school hours starting this academic year. That includes some of the biggest districts, including Los Angeles Unified and New York City, which intend to ban phones in early 2025.

Several states, including Florida, South Carolina and Louisiana, have passed laws requiring school cellphone bans. And several more, including Indiana, Minnesota and Ohio, have ordered districts to develop rules that limit kids' cellphone use at school. Gov. Gavin Newsom sent a letter to California districts last week urging them to limit student smartphone use.

The 2024-25 school year may be the tipping point when adults act to curb kids' phone addiction and regain their attention. It's about time.

It should be obvious by now that having a pocket-size entertainment center that constantly buzzes with alerts and enticements is not great for kids' ability to focus and learn. (It's not great for adults either.)

Simply having a phone nearby with notifications coming through can cause students to lose focus on the task at hand, according to one study. Once distracted, it can take as long as 20 minutes to refocus. Other studies have found that keeping a phone close by during a lecture impairs attention and reduces memory retention.

Nearly three-fourths of high school teachers surveyed last fall said that students being distracted by their cellphones in the classroom was a major problem, according to the Pew Research Center. And more than half of those teachers said school policies restricting cellphone use in the classroom were difficult to enforce. (Middle school and elementary teachers had it a little easier, with their students less distracted and more compliant with restrictions.)

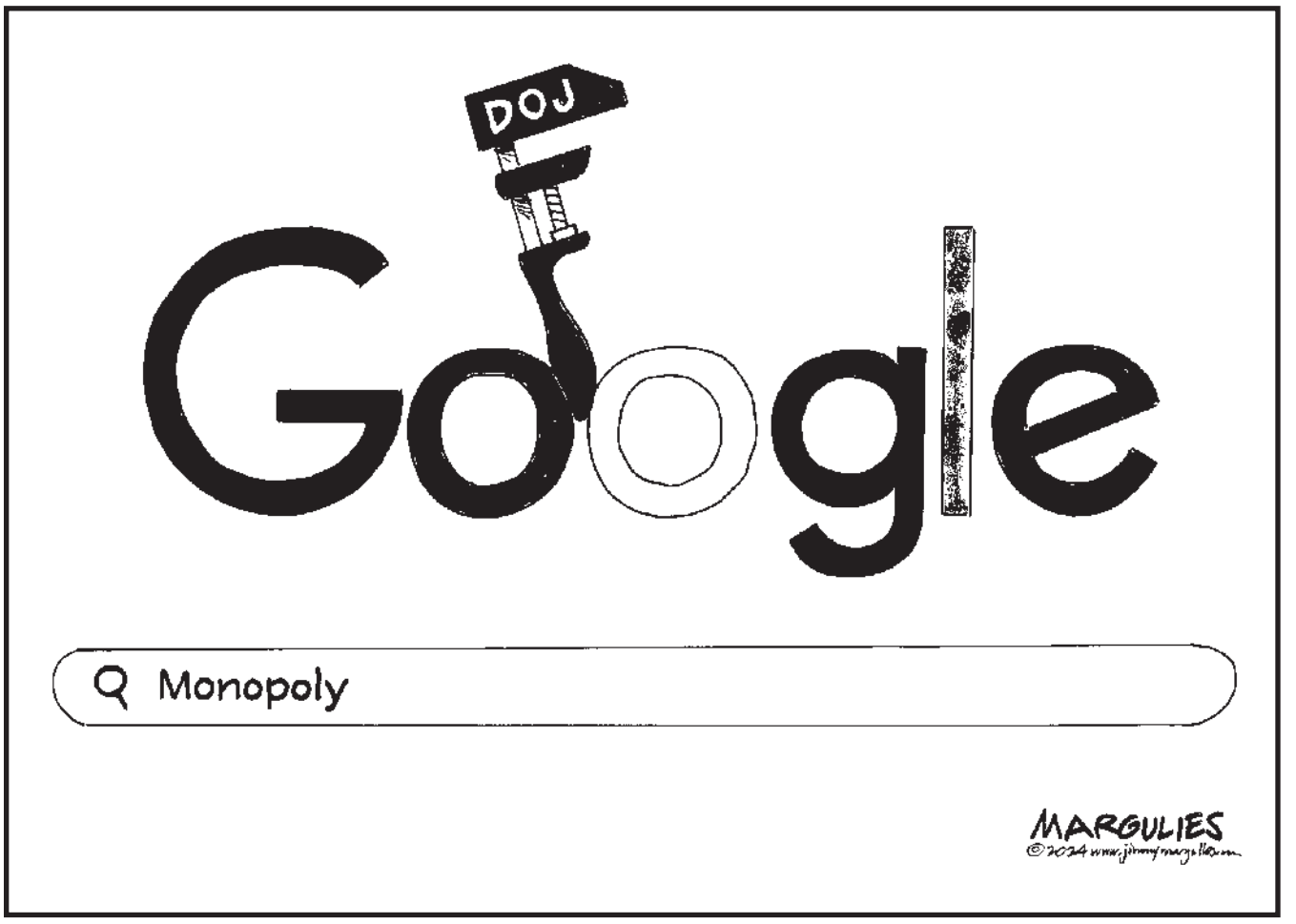
In addition, excessive social media heightens the risk of anxiety, depression and cyberbullying, and students use their phones during the day to coordinate drug purchases and fights. It's clear that the presence of cellphones on campus is more harmful than helpful. Kids need an intervention, and schools are right to rein in this technology now before another generation suffers.

"It's our responsibility in loco parentis to act as the responsible adult who protects them" during the school day, Los Angeles schools Superintendent Alberto Carvalho said.

Los Angeles Unified is now consulting with administrators, parents, students and experts about the details of the proposed cellphone ban. The district is still studying the options—other districts have required students to keep phones in their lockers, sealed in lockable pouches or checked into phone cubbies—and the method may differ from campus to campus.

The goal, Carvalho said, is to have a policy that is implemented consistently across schools. District staff will make

See CELLPHONES on Page 7



How will Harris answer the Palestinian question?

By RON BUSBY JR.
Los Angeles Times

Ron Busby Jr. is the head of product at ByBlack, which provides support for Black-owned businesses, and lives in Oakland.

As Kamala Harris prepares for the biggest moment of her political life at the Democratic National Convention this week, I've been reflecting on a recommendation I once got from her future former boss, President Joe Biden.

When I was an intern at the White House in 2014, I had the opportunity to pose a question to then-Vice President Biden. How did he balance a seemingly endless list of priorities and problems without losing faith in the potential to solve them? He left me with some cogent counsel: "Pick the fights worth losing." His point was that regardless of an outcome, the most existential threats to our society demand our opposition.

As I have watched the incalculable suffering of Palestinians over the last 10 months, I return to that advice from the same leader currently providing Israel with billions of dollars in arms to conduct its devastating war in Gaza and who wields the leverage to end it. I have marched with students, made calls to representatives in Congress and donated to relief funds. In response, I see seemingly unshakable support for Israel's war from this administration.

Almost a decade after I had that exchange with Biden, I was invited to attend a reception at the home of Vice President Harris—just days before Biden dropped out of the presidential race and Harris became the leading candidate for the Democratic nomination. It was an event celebrating Black economic achievements, in many ways a self-congratulatory affair for the Biden-Harris administration. It has provided more money to historically Black colleges and universities than any administration in history, shrunk the unemployment rate for Black communities by half and cut Black child poverty by nearly half from 2020 to 2021.

Regardless of those wins, I declined the invitation. I knew I couldn't comfortably celebrate with the vice president while the administration she serves continues to send more weapons to Israel than humanitarian aid to Gaza. Rather than the president demanding that Israel allow aid trucks to reach starving Palestinians, we air-dropped food and killed people as the packages crushed them from the sky. The U.S. attempt to create a by-sea route for humanitarian supplies—building a floating aid pier—was a $230-million failure that shut down after operating for just 25 days.

The appropriate solution to this manufactured humanitarian crisis is clear: a lasting cease-fire and unconditional access into and out of Gaza for aid and aid workers. Yet the administration refuses to apply the necessary pressure, such as ending arms transfers or sanctioning ultranationalist Israeli Cabinet members over settler violence in the West Bank.

The Black community in critical elections is called on to coalesce. We're asked to champion candidates that look like us, come from our neighborhoods and share our values. Harris and I come from the same hometown, Oakland. She has been my attorney general, senator and vice president for more than a decade. Now that she's the Democratic nominee, a mix of pride and disaffection swells in me as I consider my vote, and as we all uneasily hope for the cessation of bombings in Gaza.

Candidate Harris has an opportunity to take the advice I received from her boss 10 years ago. I hope she will earnestly reimagine our relationship with Israel to make more space for the dignity and humanity of the Palestinian people. The horror of Oct. 7 cannot justify the heinous war Israel is conducting, which includes acts and policies the International Court of Justice and a U.S. federal court have ruled may plausibly amount to genocide. Each day, it becomes clearer that Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu refuses to negotiate in good faith to reach a cease-fire and return hostages. Meanwhile, the world watches in horror as the death toll continues to rise.

There is room for optimism. Harris has met with activists calling for a cease-fire and expressed sincere concern for the well-being of Palestinians in a way that Biden has failed to do. She can chart a new foreign policy that centers human rights at this critical moment. Americans would enthusiastically support hearing that message of peace at the convention this week.

As I have in each election with her name on the ballot, I will support Kamala Harris for president. But I know too many people who will not. This genocidal war demands more than gestures. She should embrace, not dismiss, an arms embargo against Israel, as many human rights organizations have called for. She should honor the Foreign Assistance Act and promise to cut off funding to Israeli military units that the State Department finds have grossly violated Palestinian human rights, as the Leahy law requires. She should support justice for the Palestinian people. Research shows that many Americans would be more likely to vote for her if she did so.

Demanding an end to the slaughter in Gaza and freedom for the Palestinian people is a fight worth losing. It is also by all means a fight we can win.

The full truth of 9/11 is still emerging

By JACKIE CALMES
Los Angeles Times

Jackie Calmes is an opinion columnist for the Los Angeles Times *in Washington, D.C.*

Recent news, easily missed amid headlines about presidential campaign drama, natural disasters and Olympic gold, has been a somber reminder for those who caught it: As the 23rd anniversary of 9/11 approaches, Americans still don't have a full accounting of the role of a supposed U.S. ally, Saudi Arabia, in the terrorist attacks that killed nearly 3,000 people.

We should. It's late, but never too late, to learn the truth—no matter the Saudis' oil wealth, geopolitical weight or billions given to a former and perhaps future president's son-in-law.

The voids in our knowledge owe both to the Saudi government's opacity and denials, many of them debunked, as well as to our government's lid on information gleaned through federal investigations, a congressional inquiry and blue-ribbon commission. President Joe Biden in 2021 finally ordered many documents declassified, fulfilling a promise to the 9/11 victims' families, but the releases were heavily redacted.

Thank the unrelenting families for much of what we know. Their federal lawsuit targeting the Saudi kingdom has ground on since 2002, even to the Supreme Court, coming to rival Dickens' Jarndyce vs. Jarndyce in its interminable proceedings. As if the survivors haven't suffered enough.

"What we've uncovered, with no help from our FBI and no help from our own government, is that (the terrorists) had a significant amount of help, and that help came in the form of the Saudi government," Brett Eagleson, president of the families group 9/11 Justice, told reporters after a court hearing two weeks ago.

The lawsuit turns on whether assistance from Saudi individuals and groups to two hijackers who had lived in San Diego was part of the Al Qaeda plot. Of the 19 attackers, 15 were Saudis, including the two in California who would commandeer the jetliner that they crashed into the Pentagon. Osama bin Laden belonged to one of Saudi Arabia's wealthiest clans.

In the case's latest development, the plaintiffs won a ruling in June that forced into public view material further implicating the Saudis. It's material that the FBI inexplicably didn't give the bipartisan 9/11 Commission created after the attacks.

In a 1999 video first aired by CBS' "60 Minutes"in late June, Saudi citizen Omar Al Bayoumi—an informant to Saudi intelligence, the FBI confirmed, despite Saudi denials—surveills the U.S. Capitol, narrating in Arabic as he shows entrances, security posts and parking areas, presumably for his Al Qaeda handlers. The Capitol is believed to have been the target of the United Flight 93 hijackers, who were forced by their courageous captives to crash into a Pennsylvania field.

The video "is another very large brick in a massive wall of evidence that at this point indicates the Saudi government was complicit in the 9/11 attacks," Richard Lambert, who led the FBI's 9/11 investigation in San Diego, told CBS.

Over the weekend, the New York Times reported on another piece of newly unsealed evidence: Al Bayoumi's notebook that included a sketch of an airplane and an equation calculating the rate of descent to hit a target on the ground. British authorities seized the trove of evidence from Al Bayoumi's home in England 10 days after the attacks and turned it over to the FBI.

Al Bayoumi, who subsequently fled back to Saudi Arabia and remains there, lived in California before the attacks, met the two hijackers-in-waiting when they arrived in Los Angeles and got them settled in San Diego.

Michael J. Morell, a former deputy director of the CIA, told the New York Times that Congress or the Justice Department should investigate: "What happened to this stuff after it was turned over to the FBI?"

The disclosures coincided with the release last week of former House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's book "The Art of Power." In a chapter about 9/11, she devotes seven pages to the government's failure to fully follow the dots to Saudi Arabia, and the Bush administration's resistance to doing so.

Pelosi writes that a joint House-Senate inquiry focused on communications breakdowns among intelligence and law enforcement agencies that caused them to miss opportunities to prevent the tragedy. "But," she adds, "there was a second major theme that we were not initially allowed to present to the public: The Saudi Arabian connection, specifically a clear trail of funding and assistance to these 9/11 terrorists that was provided by Saudi citizens, and particularly by Saudi diplomats and royal family members."

When it comes to U.S. intelligence, Pelosi knows. For 30 years she was part of the tiny clique in Congress with access to the nation's secrets. What still troubles her is this: "We found strong evidence of multiple concerning links to Saudi Arabia, while they (Bush officials) were trying very hard to link 9/11 to Iraq and Saddam Hussein."

Congress authorized Bush to go to war, based on the lie that Iraq possessed weapons of mass destruction. Pressured by 9/11 families, it also established an outside commission for a broader probe of the attacks. Its report in 2004 said it "found no evidence" of Saudi government or senior officials' complicity, though it didn't "exclude the likelihood that charities with significant Saudi government sponsorship diverted funds to al Qaeda."

The 9/11 commission's executive director noted to the New York Times, in its recent report on new evidence, that the commission's conclusions 20 years ago "were dependent on the evidence available at that time."

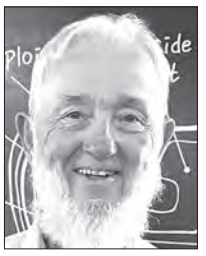
Exactly. Which is why Congress or some outside group of its creation should investigate the new clues of Saudi complicity, and report its updated findings to the nation. Honor the victims, not foreign policy sacred cows.

Problems with 'evil' (reverse) 'live' with problems

LITERARY NOOK

By JOEY CONNOLLY
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Joey Connolly aka "Pepe Batbon" is a retired educator who taught in the CNMI, NOLA, and LVNV. He is the Poet Laureate of Tinian and enjoys stargazing.



Got to live life if you want it now and or later
problems and evil coming at you day and night
ocean depths mountain climbs volcanic crater
fantasy schemes nightmares dreams sunlight
trouble maintaining your equilibrium throughout
push comes to shove digging the dirt some mirth
evil towards none malice towards all in doubt
kindness forgiveness regret for what it's worth
problems and evil seem to be with us every day
yet so is goodness mercy justice and freedom
inherent in our daily life and some of us pray
depends on the human we choose to become
as between the immensities of birth and death
we stumble and savor life with every breath.

CELLPHONES

From page 6

recommendations to the Board of Education in December, with the goal of having the ban take effect when students return from winter break in January.

Yes, it will be difficult to change the behavior of both students, who are loath to part with their phones, and their parents, who are accustomed to being able to reach their kids at any time of the day. Yes, some students will try to evade the rules. The first weeks and months of a cellphone ban will be challenging for teachers, administrators, students and parents. This will be a major culture change, but a worthy one.

And it's quite possible that by the end of the school year, students and educators will look back and think, "Why didn't we do this earlier?"

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Life on Mars? How about life on Earth?

By JOHN M. CRISP
Tribune News Service

John M. Crisp is an op-ed columnist for Tribune News Service.

Here's some exciting news. I guess.

It appears that until 3 billion years ago, Mars was partly covered by water, at which time its atmosphere was blown away by the solar wind. But a recent study published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences indicates that an enormous amount of water is still trapped in the pores of volcanic rock beneath the surface of Mars.

Water implies the possibility of life. Michael Manga, study co-author and professor at the University of California, Berkeley, says: "Water is necessary for life as we know it. I don't see why [the underground Martian reservoir] is not a habitable environment. It's certainly true on Earth—deep, deep mines host life, the bottom of the ocean hosts life."

What would it mean if we found life on Mars, even if it's only primitive organisms similar to those that we find at the bottom of the ocean on Earth?

Neel V. Patel argued recently in the New York Times that the discovery of life on Mars "would change how humanity thinks about its place in this universe." He concedes that sending humans to extraterrestrial destinations is a worthy goal, but NASA's top priority should be answering the question of whether we are truly alone in the universe.

Patel's point is well taken, but, really, does it matter? It might be interesting and surprising to find life on Mars, but would it change anything having to do with who we are and our place in the universe?

In fact, concerns about life and water and other resources on the moon, Mars and elsewhere bear this inherent danger: They distract our attention away from the one place in the entire universe where we know, for sure, that more-or-less intelligent life does exist, as well as the unfortunate fact that we've currently put it into considerable jeopardy.

Humankind's imagination has always been excited by the possibility that the cosmos harbors life beyond Earth. We've been pleased to entertain the idea that the moon, Mars and other planets are waystations on the path to our inherent destiny, to conquer space and to colonize distant moons and planets.

Accordingly, Earth's most prominent visionary, Elon Musk, is committed to landing humans on Mars within 10 years and founding a metropolis of a million earthlings on the Red Planet within 20.

This ambitious goal is admittedly consistent with the narrative that has driven human migration since our ancestors left Africa some 80,000 years ago. Humans have regularly moved into new territory, thrived, consumed and outgrown their resources and then moved on and repeated the cycle. According to this narrative, as our planet increasingly shows the stress of our overuse, colonization of the moon and Mars is the next logical step.

But is it? Once we leave the Earth, does this terrestrial narrative make sense, if it ever did?

In 1492 the so-called New World must have seemed unimaginably distant from Europe. But it wasn't, and it wasn't really New. It was still a place where humans could thrive.

But the universe is different. Our Milky Way is an average-sized galaxy in a universe that contains, by some estimates, 2 trillion others. Still, the Milky Way is 100,000 light-years across. If our galaxy were reduced to the size of the United States, on that scale, our solar system would be the size of a quarter in your change tray.

In short, the scale of travel beyond the Earth is immense enough to make nonsense of whatever logic drove the narrative that spread humankind across the globe. This makes sense: We evolved here. The Earth created us. And now we're creating whatever the Earth is going to become. The Earth is where our lives make sense.

Of course, critics will say that this sort of thinking would have kept our ancestors cringing in caves, terrified of venturing onto the savannahs. Maybe. But to imagine that we can escape an overburdened Earth by colonizing Mars is a fantasy at odds with our essential humanity.

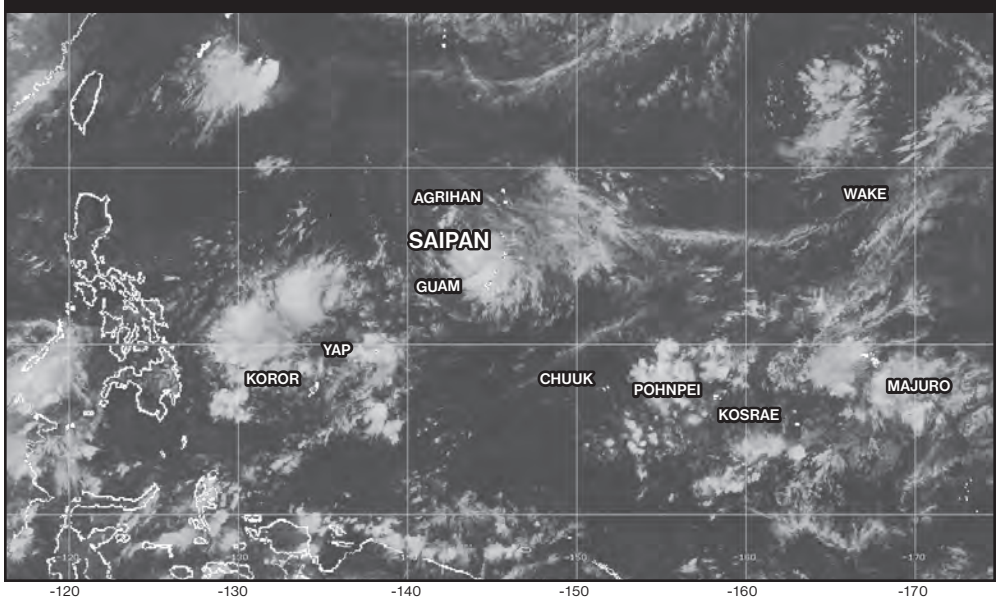
Life on Mars? Good luck to it. We've got our own problems here.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. Southeast to east winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly sunny with a 30 percent chance of showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms. Southeast winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with a 30 percent chance of showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy with a 30 percent chance of showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy with a 30 percent chance of showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms.
85° 79°	86° 79°	85° 79°	85° 79°	85° 79°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 7:16 AM WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 21, 2024

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Just refreshed the waves, which increased them just slightly. No other changes were needed, everything else was in good shape. The moderate risk of rip currents will disappear after today, so overall that`s a good thing. Main event is that today should be very wet at Tinian and Saipan, somewhat less so at Guam and Rota.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: https://www.weather.gov/gum/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Mostly Cloudy	87° / 79°
Palau	Mostly Cloudy	84° / 76°
Yap	Thunderstorms	84° / 78°
Chuuk	Scattered Thunderstorms	86° / 79°
Pohnpei	Mostly Cloudy	83° / 76°
Kosrae	Partly Cloudy	85° / 79°
Majuro	Mostly Cloudy	85° / 80°

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:03 AM	6:36 PM
Friday	6:03 AM	6:35 PM
Saturday	6:03 AM	6:34 PM
Sunday	6:03 AM	6:34 PM
Monday	6:03 AM	6:33 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	8:11 AM	8:36 PM
Friday	-	9:10 AM	9:18 PM
Saturday	-	10:09 AM	10:02 PM
Sunday	-	11:09 AM	10:48 PM
Monday	-	12:10 PM	11:39 PM

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Cloudy	59° / 55°
Beijing	Cloudy	96° / 70°
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	88° / 80°
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	87° / 75°
London	Sunny	85° / 65°
Los Angeles	Sunny	90° / 67°
Manila	Thunderstorms	86° / 76°
Melbourne	Rain	56° / 49°
Miami	Thunderstorms	88° / 77°
New York	Partly Cloudy	83° / 67°
Osaka	Thunderstorms	93° / 83°
Paris	Showers	81° / 65°
Busan	Thunderstorms	88° / 80°
Rome	Thunderstorms	89° / 68°
Salem	Mostly Sunny	90° / 70°
San Francisco	Cloudy	73° / 58°
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	86° / 75°
Tokyo	Mostly Cloudy	91° / 80°
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	84° / 67°

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
3:23 AM	Low Tide	0.87
8:51 AM	High Tide	2.17
3:39 PM	Low Tide	0.15
9:54 PM	High Tide	2.13

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF AUGUST 18, 2024

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA076	9:50AM	10:35AM	Daily

SAIPAN- NARITA (NRT)

UA824	11:50AM	2:25PM	1, 3, 5

GUAM-MANILA (MNL)

PR 111	5:55AM	7:55AM	Daily
UA193	6:50PM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Palau
UA183	7:10PM	9:10PM	Daily

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

7C3403/2305	4:45AM	10:20PM	Daily
UA076/183	9:50AM	9:10PM	Daily via Guam
UA076/193	9:50AM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Guam, Palau

SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)

TW308	3:15AM	7:00AM	Daily
7C3403	4:45AM	8:35AM	Daily
7C3405	4:10PM	7:45PM	Daily

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

HX77	4:05AM	7:00AM	1, 5

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	8:00AM	8:50AM	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

UA825	5:30PM	9:55PM	2, 4, 7

MANILA (MNL)-GUAM

UA184	10:25PM	4:20AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA192	10:25PM	6:15AM+1	2, 5 via Palau
PR110	10:30PM	4:25AM+1	Daily
UA184	11:50PM	5:45AM+1	2, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA192/174	10:25PM	8:50AM+1	2, 5 via Palau, Guam
UA184/174	10:25PM	8:50AM +1	1, 3, 4, 6,7 via Guam
7C2306/3406	11:10PM	3:10PM+1	Daily
UA184/174	11:50PM	8:50AM +1	2, 5 via Guam

INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3406	9:30AM	3:10PM	Daily
7C3472	11:05AM	4:40PM	Daily (July 17 to Aug 17)
TW307	8:30PM	2:15AM+1	Daily
7C3404	10:10PM	3:40AM+1	Daily

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

HX76	7:25PM	2:35AM+1	4, 7

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 2, 2024

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1301	SAIPAN	ROTA	08:30	09:00	Daily
1302	SAIPAN	ROTA	10:30	11:00	Daily
1303	SAIPAN	ROTA	15:30	16:00	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3101	ROTA	SAIPAN	9:30	10:00	Daily
3102	ROTA	SAIPAN	11:30	12:00	Saturday & Sunday
3103	ROTA	SAIPAN	13:30	14:00	Monday To Friday
3104	ROTA	SAIPAN	16:30	17:00	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3401	ROTA	GUAM	11:30	12:00	Monday To Friday

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
4301	GUAM	ROTA	12:30	13:00	Monday To Friday

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1201	SAIPAN	TINIAN	7:30	7:45	Daily
1202	SAIPAN	TINIAN	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	SAIPAN	TINIAN	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	SAIPAN	TINIAN	10:00	10:15	Daily
1206	SAIPAN	TINIAN	14:00	14:15	Daily
1207	SAIPAN	TINIAN	15:00	15:15	Daily
1208	SAIPAN	TINIAN	16:00	16:15	Daily
1209	SAIPAN	TINIAN	17:00	17:15	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
2101	TINIAN	SAIPAN	8:00	8:15	Daily
2102	TINIAN	SAIPAN	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	TINIAN	SAIPAN	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	TINIAN	SAIPAN	10:30	10:45	Daily
2106	TINIAN	SAIPAN	14:30	14:45	Daily
2107	TINIAN	SAIPAN	15:30	15:45	Daily
2108	TINIAN	SAIPAN	16:30	16:45	Daily
2109	TINIAN	SAIPAN	17:30	17:45	Daily

School Year 2024-2025 Public School Opening

PSS

The first group of students were dropped off by PSS S-5 bus at the designated area at the back of Garapan Elementary School at 7:12am, which means students arrived on time at the designated bus pick up area.

PSS

At exactly 6:40am, incoming fourth-grade student Steven Flores was the first to arrive at Garapan Elementary School. He and her sister, Savannah Flores, an incoming senior at Marianas High School, were greeted by Education Commissioner Dr. Lawrence F. Camacho.

RACQUEL FLOYD

Marianas High School principal Jonathan Aguon, left, and vice principal Romolo Orsini were happy for the smooth first day of the school last Tuesday.

PSS

At Oleai Elementary School, Special Education Program State director Donna M. Flores engages students during their breakfast at the school cafeteria. Flores and all of PSS key management assisted all schools in last Tuesday's opening.

RACQUEL FLOYD

Oleai Elementary School principal Jasylene Parico assists in guiding the students to their cars as they are being picked up by their parents after class last Tuesday.

RACQUEL FLOYD

Oleai Oleai Elementary School principal Jasylene Parico, left, and vice principal Alisa Pangelinan expressed their gratitude to the successful opening of the school year.

PSS

In one of his classroom tours, students are greeted by Education Commissioner Dr. Lawrence Camacho.

Business

Chamber celebrates success at CESI Program luncheon

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Student interns join industry partners in posing for a group photo during the Career Exploration Summer Internship End-of-Program Appreciation Luncheon held last Aug. 16 at Kensington Hotel's Kensington Hall.

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce, in collaboration with the Department of Labor's Workforce Investment Agency Office and the CNMI Public School System, hosted the Career Exploration Summer Internship End-of-Program Appreciation Luncheon last Aug. 16.

This event, held at the Kensington Hotel's Kensington Hall from 11:30am to 2pm, honored the student interns and industry partners who participated in this initiative to strengthen the local workforce.

The luncheon featured an award ceremony to recognize the dedication and commitment of both the interns and the industry partners involved in the CESI Program. Notable attendees included Education Commissioner Dr. Lawrence Camacho, associate commissioner of Administration Eric Magofna, Senate President Edith DeLeon Guerrero (D-Saipan), House vice speaker Rep. Joel Camacho (Ind-Saipan), and Chamber secretary Ron Smith and director Brad Ruszala.

During the ceremony, each intern was individually acknowledged alongside their industry partner and received a certificate of appreciation from the Chamber, the Department of Labor, and PSS for their contributions to the 2024 Career Exploration Summer Internship Program.

"The CESI Program is a vital step in bridging the gap between our students and the local workforce. By providing these young individuals with real-world experience, we are not only empowering them for future success but also strengthening our community as a whole. We are committed to continuing this program annually and look forward to seeing it grow in the years to come. We are grateful for our Chamber membership for opening their doors to our youth to assist in molding and growing their professional development," said Chamber executive director Kimm Camacho.

"Our partnership in the Summer Career Exploration Internship program exemplifies our shared commitment to empowering students. Together, we provide meaningful opportunities for young individuals to explore diverse career paths and develop the skills necessary for their future success," said DOL Workforce Investment Agency director Frances Torres.

"On behalf of the CNMI Public School System, we are very delighted to not only provide internship opportunities for our students through our partnership with DOL WIA and the Chamber but also building and expanding partnerships so that together we can serve more students and help them reach their fullest potential," said PSS Career and Technical Education Program director Dr. Jessica Taylor.

"The event was a remarkable success, and Chamber looks forward to making the CESI Program an annual event together with our partners CNMI PSS and DOL WIA, with hopes of achieving even greater success in the future. Congratulations to all the interns, and best wishes for continued success in your future endeavors!" said the Chamber's Camacho.

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce is a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting the economic growth and development of the CNMI. With a focus on supporting local businesses, fostering collaboration, and driving community initiatives, the Chamber serves as the leading voice of the business community on Saipan. ***(PR)***

Japan records trade deficit as surging global prices pushes imports higher

TOKYO (AP)—Japan racked up a 621 billion yen ($4.3 billion) trade deficit in July, as prices of imports surged, according to government data released Wednesday.

Japan's imports grew nearly 17% from a year ago to 10.2 trillion yen ($70.6 billion), while exports grew 10% to 9.6 trillion yen ($66 billion), the Finance Ministry said.

Imports grew in meat and other food, as well as iron, underlining a relatively healthy domestic economy, where consumer spending improved amid rising wages.

Exports grew to the U.S., China and Brazil, but auto exports continued to suffer amid a scandal involving falsified testing that stalled production at some manufacturers, including Japan's top automaker Toyota Motor Corp.

Earlier, auto production was hit from parts shortages caused by production disruptions from the coronavirus pandemic.

Japan's exports in July grew from a year ago in plastic, paper products and computer parts.

"Exports slightly missed the market consensus, but showed a robust acceleration, suggesting the economy is in recovery," said Robert Carnell, regional head of Research Asia-Pacific at ING Economics.

"It is also encouraging to note that exports grew across all major categories. Technology exports were particularly strong."

Although Japan recorded a trade surplus in June, the world's fourth largest economy has consistently been in the red in trade data, logging trade deficits for six straight fiscal half-years, starting with the final half of 2021. Japan's fiscal year runs from April to March.

Nation

Obamas close DNC's 2nd night with rousing Harris endorsement

CHICAGO (AP)—Warning of a difficult fight ahead, former President Barack Obama and Michelle Obama on Tuesday called on the nation to embrace Kamala Harris in urgent messages to the Democratic National Convention that were at times both hopeful and ominous.

"America, hope is making a comeback," the former first lady declared. She then tore into Republican Donald Trump, a sharp shift from the 2016 convention speech in which she told her party, "When they go low, we go high."

"His limited and narrow view of the world made him feel threatened by the existence of two hardworking, highly educated, successful people who also happened to be Black," Michelle Obama said of Trump.

Barack Obama, the first Black president in U.S. history, insisted the nation is ready to elect Harris, who is of Jamaican and Indian heritage and would be the nation's first female president. He also called Trump "a 78-year-old billionaire who hasn't stopped whining about his problems since he rode down his golden escalator nine years ago."

» With pointed warnings about Trump

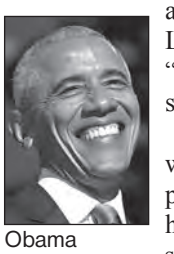
"It's been a constant stream of gripes and grievances that's actually gotten worse now that he's afraid of losing to Kamala," he said.

The fiery messages from two of the Democratic Party's biggest stars underscored the urgency of the moment as Harris works to stitch together a broad coalition in her bid to defeat Trump this fall. The vice president is drawing on stars like the Obamas and other celebrities, officials from the far left to the middle, and even some Republicans to boost her campaign.

And while the theme of the night was "a bold vision for America's future," the disparate factions of Harris' evolving coalition demonstrated, above all, that they are connected by a deep desire to prevent a second Trump presidency.

In an appearance perhaps intended to needle Trump, his former press secretary Stephanie Grisham—now a harsh critic of her former boss—also took the convention stage.

Trump "has no empathy, no morals and no fidelity to the truth," Grisham said. "I love my country more than my party. Kamala Harris tells the truth. She respects the American people. And she has my vote."



Obama

Sens. Chuck Schumer, the Senate Democratic leader, and Bernie Sanders, the Vermont independent beloved by progressives, both praised Harris.

Schumer called on voters to elect another Democratic majority to the U.S. Senate. "She can't do it alone," he said of a prospective President Harris.

Sanders, a self-described democratic socialist, said he was eager to work with Harris in the White House as well. Their policy goals, he said, are "not a radical agenda."

As Democrats addressed the nation from Chicago, Harris faced an estimated 15,000 people in battleground Wisconsin in the arena where Republicans held their convention last month. She said that she was running "a people-powered campaign."

"Together we will chart a new way forward," the vice president said in remarks that were partially broadcast to the DNC. "A future for freedom, opportunity, of optimism and faith."

Still, it was not all serious on the second night of the four-day convention.

A symbolic roll call in which delegates from each state pledged their support for the Democratic nominee turned into a party atmosphere. A DJ played a mix of state-specific songs—and Atlanta native Lil Jon ran out during Georgia's turn to his hit song with DJ Snake, "Turn Down for What," to the delight of the thousands inside the cavernous United Center.

And various speakers offered personal stories about Harris, who has served as a California senator and vice president, but remains largely unknown among many voters.

Second gentleman Doug Emhoff, who would become the nation's first gentleman if his wife wins the presidency, shared details about his relationship with the vice president—their cooking habits, their first date and her laugh, which is often mocked by Republican critics.

"You know that laugh. I love that laugh!" Emhoff said as the crowd cheered. Later, he added, "Her empathy is her strength."

Trump, meanwhile, was out on the campaign trail as part of his weeklong swing-state tour during the Democratic convention. He went to Howell, Michigan, on Tuesday and stood aside sheriff's deputies as he labeled Harris the "ringleader" of a "Marxist attack on law enforcement" across the country.

"Kamala Harris will deliver crime, chaos, destruction and death," Trump said in one of many generalizations about an America under Harris.

Throughout their convention, Democrats have sought to balance a message of unity with an embrace of diversity.

Barack Obama's speech Tuesday night made perhaps the most forceful case for that model as a logical step forward for a bitterly divided nation. In contrast to the party's rhetoric in the recent past around race, Obama framed the Democrats' approach as "a new way forward" for a modern society in contrast to a "divisive," "old" and "tired" strategy of vision offered by the party's chief opponent, Trump.

Michelle Obama also addressed race directly as she jabbed Trump, referencing a comment he made in a June debate.

"Who's going to tell him that the job he's currently seeking might just be one of those 'Black jobs'?" she said. "It's his same old con: doubling down on ugly, misogynistic, racist lies as a substitute for real ideas and solutions that will actually make people's lives better."

Barack Obama returned to the convention stage 20 years after making his first appearance at a national convention, a 2004 appearance in Boston that propelled him into the national spotlight ahead of his successful presidential run. And he praised President Joe Biden, who ended his re-election bid last month and endorsed Harris.

Life & Style

Jennifer Lopez files for divorce from Ben Affleck

LOS ANGELES (AP)—After a relationship that spanned two decades, two engagements, two weddings and headlines too numerous to count, Jennifer Lopez has filed for divorce from Ben Affleck.

The filing Tuesday in Los Angeles brought to an apparent end a celebrity coupling—or at least the second installment of it—that dazzled from the very heights of the pop culture firmament and emblazoned countless tabloid covers. The pair became known, even before such power-couple portmanteaus were ubiquitous, as "Bennifer."

Court records showed Lopez filed the petition Tuesday in Los Angeles Superior Court. The news was first reported by the TMZ website. TMZ reported further that Lopez listed the date of separation as April 26, 2024. It added that she did not mention any prenuptial agreement.

After meeting, falling in love and getting engaged in the early 2000s—and starring together in 2003's infamous "Gigli" and 2004's "Jersey Girl"—the couple parted ways, blaming in part the pressure of the public eye.

But to the delight of many and perhaps the skepticism of others, they reunited two decades later and married—twice—in 2022.

"Love is beautiful. Love is kind. And it turns out love is patient. Twenty years patient," wrote Lopez, announcing their first, quickie Las Vegas wedding that July, and signing off as Jennifer Lynn Affleck.

"Stick around long enough and maybe you'll find the best moment of your life in a drive through in Las Vegas at 12:30 in the morning in the tunnel of love drive through with your kids and the one you'll spend forever with," she wrote in her newsletter.

The couple had flown to Las Vegas, lined up with their license with four other couples and were wed just after midnight at A Little White Wedding Chapel, where Lopez said a Bluetooth speaker played their brief march down the aisle. She called it the best night of the couple's lives.

A month later, they had a much grander wedding at Affleck's house in Georgia, in front of friends and family.

Both of them had been previously married. Affleck, 52, married Jennifer Garner, with whom he shares three children, in 2005. They divorced in 2018.

AP

Actor Ben Affleck, left, and actor-singer Jennifer Lopez attend the premiere of "The Last Duel" on Oct. 9, 2021, in New York

Lopez, 55, had been married three times before. She was briefly married to Ojani Noa from 1997-1998 and to Cris Judd from 2001-2003. She and singer Marc Anthony were married for a decade, having wed in 2004, and share 14-year-old twins. She started dating former baseball player Alex Rodriguez in 2017, but the couple called off their engagement in 2021.

All along, it had been Lopez who was more vocal in describing her and Affleck's journey. When asked earlier this year whether she was harder on herself because her relationships had been so high-profile, Lopez agreed.

"Oh yeah. 100%. It's made me doubt myself and really feel bad about myself at times. Made me feel like I wanted to quit at times. But at the end of the day, I feel like you kind of have to do this thing where you learn how to navigate it," she told The Associated Press. "You take the things that could be constructive about that and use it, and the rest you kind of just throw away as kind of like haterations or, you know, other things like that and just be like, 'Whatever. I know who I am, I know what I want to do.'"

Affleck himself expressed admiration for her self-possession, telling the AP last year that he agreed with the idea that Hollywood was unsure how to capitalize on her wide-ranging talent.

"I think she's in her prime," Affleck said then. "She's doing extraordinary work in large measure because she's taking that step to take responsibility for what she's doing rather than say, 'This is what I'm being offered.'"

Lopez is starring in the upcoming "Unstoppable," under Affleck and Matt Damon's Artists Equity banner.

Shiloh Jolie, daughter of Angelina Jolie and Brad Pitt, officially drops Pitt surname

One of Angelina Jolie and Brad Pitt's six children has officially dropped "Pitt" from her name.

A Los Angeles court granted a petition from the third-eldest child of the former couple to legally change her name from Shiloh Nouvel Jolie-Pitt to Shiloh Nouvel Jolie on Monday.

She initially filed the petition to make the name change official on May 27, the day she turned 18.

Several outlets have reported that other Jolie-Pitt children have informally excluded Pitt from their names but Shiloh is the first to take legal steps to formalize the name change. Notably, their daughter Vivienne, was listed in a program for "The Outsiders" on Broadway as "Vivienne Jolie."

Along with Shiloh and Vivienne, the former couple also share four other children, Maddox, Pax, Zahara and Knox.

The "Maleficent" actor, who rose to fame in the '90s, filed for a name change herself in 2002 to legally drop her father Jon Voight's surname after their relationship had reportedly deteriorated.

AP

This combination of photos shows Shiloh Jolie at the London premiere of "Eternals" on Oct. 27, 2021, left, and Brad Pitt at a special screening of "Ad Astra" in Los Angeles on Sept. 18, 2019.

Pitt and Jolie had been romantic partners for a decade when they married in 2014. Jolie filed for divorce in 2016, and a judge declared them single in 2019, but the divorce case has not been finalized with custody and financial issues still in dispute.

The actors have also filed lawsuits against each other in recent years stemming from disagreements over their shared business ventures and property including a winery in France.

In a 2022 court filing, Jolie alleged that on a 2016 flight, Pitt grabbed her by the head and shook her, then choked one of their children and struck another when they tried to defend her.

Representatives for Shiloh did not return requests for comment.

The news of the petition being granted was first reported by celebrity website TMZ. ***(AP)***

Retired husband lives with physical and emotional pain

DEAR ABBY: My husband has been retired from law enforcement for five years. I can't retire, as I am self-employed. I was always the one who had to take time off work to care for him with his back and hip surgeries, his mom, his dad and my mom for the past 15 years. I also took care of his kids during weekend visits.

He has spent his retirement in chronic pain. He stays in bed until 11 a.m., and has reconnected with his high school and college girlfriends. All of them cheated on him or stole from him and broke his heart. One was convicted of felony larceny for stealing from a charity fundraiser.

He promised initially that he would give these women up, but for the last three years he has lied to me about being in contact with them. He says he shouldn't have to give them up because "they were an important part of his life." Abby, they gave him STDs and abandoned him, while I have stupidly been loyal and faithful.

I know he probably suffers from PTSD and has anger issues, because he is mean to me. But I so looked forward to having a "real" marriage once the stress of his job was over. He intermittently packs his belongings and leaves, but he returns after a few hours. He confides in these women, and they speak badly about me because of his lies. I don't want their energy in my marriage. What can I do?

BEWILDERED IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR BEWILDERED: Consult a lawyer. Then, finally, put your foot down. Tell your husband you are appalled by his ingratitude after the years of love and care you have given him, and that unless he agrees to marriage counseling, he will be spending his retirement without you.

While you're at it, tell him his emotional affairs (if that's all they are) with women who have abused him are sick, and you will no longer tolerate his constant lying about them. Then prepare to leave, because he is unlikely to change, and you deserve much better.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: I live in a small, semirural neighborhood. My neighbors did not discipline their kids, and now they are teenagers. Six months ago, I caught the younger one trying to stand on my chain-link fence, and last year the gate to the fence to my front yard. This morning, I was mowing my yard on their side of my house and saw a decorative piece of my post lying on the ground.

They are generally good neighbors. They are great with my dog, and I don't want to ruin the friendship. Should I say something to the parents, knowing I don't have video, or should I confront their son, or neither?

TEEN-AFFECTED IN THE SOUTH

DEAR TEEN-AFFECTED: Do not ignore this, hoping it will go away. Your fencepost has now been damaged and needs to be repaired. Start by talking to the boy who did it. Tell him you have always liked him and are disappointed in his poor judgment.

Ask how he plans to make things right. (He could "work it off" by watering your lawn, walking your dog, etc., for a specific amount of time.) If, however, he is disrespectful, THAT would be the time to talk to his parents.

■■■

To order "How to Write Letters for All Occasions," send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Letter Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

DEAR ABBY

BY ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

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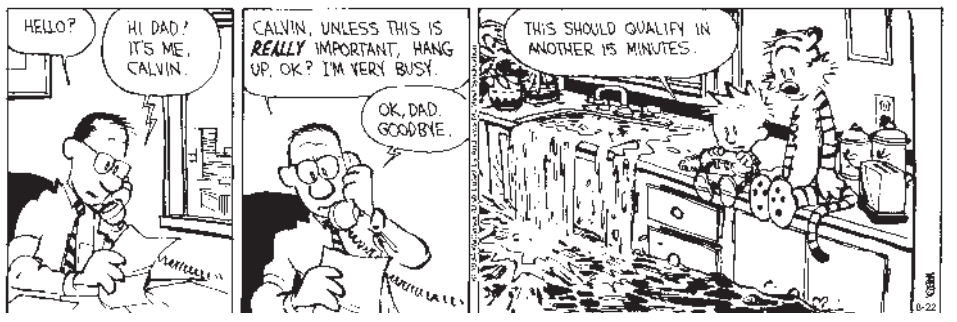
Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

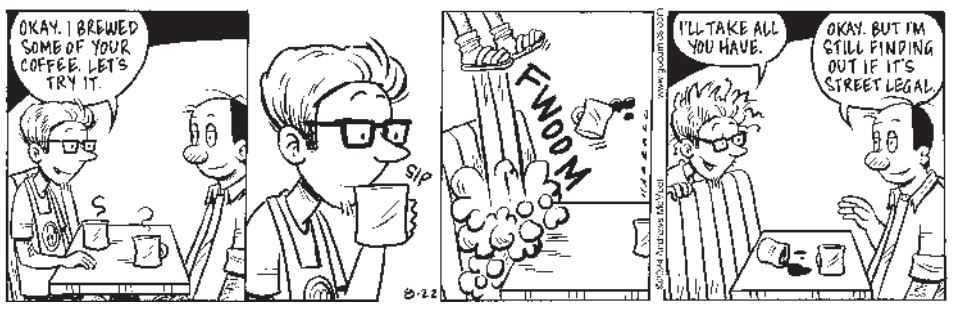

HELLO?
HI DAD! IT'S ME, CALVIN.
CALVIN, UNLESS THIS IS REALLY IMPORTANT, HANG UP, OK? I'M VERY BUSY.
OK, DAD. GOODBYE.
THIS SHOULD QUALIFY IN ANOTHER 15 MINUTES.
8-22

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


OKAY. I BREWED SOME OF YOUR COFFEE. LET'S TRY IT.
SIP
8-22
FWOOM
I'LL TAKE ALL YOU HAVE.
OKAY. BUT I'M STILL FINDING OUT IF IT'S STREET LEGAL.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
WRITING OUR CONGRESSMAN, DEMANDING SQUIRRELS PAY MORE TAXES.
SQUIRRELS DON'T PAY ANY TAXES.
SEE WHAT FREELOADERS THEY ARE?! AND YET THEY TAKE ADVANTAGE OF OUR NATION'S ACORN RESOURCES!

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

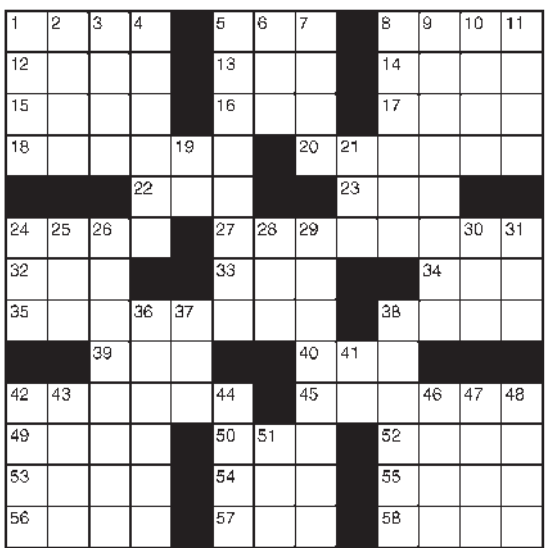
ACROSS
1 Saudi native
5 Lawn material
8 "Let's go!"
12 Wife of Zeus
13 "— -hoo!"
14 Sitarist's music
15 Genesis brother
16 Comedian Margaret
17 Disney exec Robert
18 Sheep sounds
20 Politician Mitt
22 Resistance unit
23 Author Tolstoy
24 Baba — ("SNL" character)
27 "Is that so?"
32 Fire sign?
33 — Dawn Chong
34 British verb ending
35 Sitcom about "nothing"
38 Rolls of bills
39 Ode title starter
40 X-ray's cousin
42 Brown pigment
45 Reception aid
49 Slender woodwind
50 Big shot
52 Spring flower
53 Authoritative order
54 Hooting bird
55 Zilch
56 Requests
57 Misery
58 Pesky insect

DOWN
1 "Moby-Dick" captain
2 Ms. McEntire
3 Location
4 Panama explorer
5 Stately shade tree
6 "What a cute kitten!"
7 Entryway
8 Yalta's peninsula
9 Flowering tree
10 Curved molding
11 Not even one
19 "I see"
21 Yucatan "Bravo!"
24 Used to be
25 Enzyme ending
26 Hardwood tree
28 Actor Holbrook
29 Colorful fall tree
30 "Acid"
31 "Certainly!"
36 Pieces for nine
37 Enthusiast
38 Electrician's job
41 Concerning
42 Couch
43 Nile wader
44 Acknowledge
46 Persia, today
47 Opera set in Egypt
48 Future atty.'s exam
51 — Jima

Solution time: 24 mins.

H	O	P	I	■	O	H	S	■	V	C	R	S
C	M	E	N	■	B	E	I	■	E	L	A	N
S	A	N	C	I	I	F	Y	■	S	A	G	A
F	N	N	U	I	■	■	F	A	T	S	U	P
■	■	■	R	O	A	M	■	W	A	S	■	■
R	F	S	S	■	R	A	M	A	■	I	C	I
A	G	O	■	M	O	R	A	Y	■	F	A	T
A	O	I	■	O	N	Y	X	■	H	Y	P	F
■	■	I	W	O	■	S	I	R	I	■	■	■
S	E	D	A	N	S	■	■	A	N	W	A	R
A	R	I	D	■	P	R	E	T	T	I	F	Y
I	I	F	E	■	U	K	E	■	A	C	R	E
K	E	Y	S	■	D	O	N	■	T	K	O	S

Yesterday's answer 8-22



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955!** 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Keith Powers, 32; James Corden, 46; Kristen Wiig, 51; Ty Burrell, 57.

Happy Birthday: Formulate a long-term plan, but keep your intentions private, or a copycat will take credit for your ideas. Launch your plans when you feel confident you have left nothing out. You will receive glory for the ingenuity, substance and the flair you bring to your presentation. Nothing worthwhile happens overnight. Your patience and practice will pay off this year, and commitment will lead to stability. Your numbers are 6, 18, 23, 27, 32, 39, 45.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Look at situations thoroughly. Leave nothing to chance or up to someone else. Be responsible and do whatever it takes to ensure you give your all and do your best. Be aware of how you feel mentally and physically, and adjust what's necessary to ensure your safety. ✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* A change will face complexities at a social level, but if you are true to yourself and honest in your approach, you will weather the storm and come out on top. Trust your instincts, do your research and don't infringe on your reputation or financial intake. ✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Unexpected change will be difficult to control. Distance yourself from what's unfolding, and you'll gain clarity regarding how to respond. A controlled situation will be easier to navigate and to help those you love. Stay calm and lead the way, and something good will transpire. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Size up situations using your intuition and investigative tactics, and you'll find a way to turn whatever transpires into something that works well for you. A unique approach to an old idea will transform it into something marketable. Put your energy where it counts, and rewards will follow. ✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Gather all the facts before drawing conclusions. Someone will offer an unrealistic version of a situation that can lead to a costly mistake. Invest time and effort into something you believe in that doesn't depend on another's reliability. ✪✪✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Sit tight, observe and decide on your next move. Understanding the dynamics and personalities involved in whatever situation you face is essential before participating in something that can influence your position, finances or reputation. Show commitment. ✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* A change of scenery will encourage you to see situations differently. Participate in events or activities that stimulate your mind and fine-tune your body. The results will prepare you to make a meaningful move that paves a path to new people, places and prospects. ✪✪✪s

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Engaging in something you've never tried will pique your creative imagination and encourage you to indulge in a new adventure. Spending time with someone unlike yourself will help expand your interests and mind and change your perspective regarding life, love and happiness. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Share only what's necessary. The less information you offer, the easier it is to fly under the radar and accomplish your goals. Create opportunities, and build a solid base to house your plans. Trust your instincts and be wary of what others do or say. ✪✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Put your emotions aside and listen and observe. Let your actions be your voice once you have accumulated enough information to make an intelligent decision. Changing your plans will bring you closer to someone you love and respect. Let them come to you, and you'll gain security. ✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Consider your financial position and how you can improve by upgrading your skills or using them differently. Don't let changes going on around you distract or confuse you. Focus on what you can achieve and who will support your efforts. A partnership looks promising.✪✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Refuse to get upset or allow anyone to play with your emotions. Set high standards, and you'll discover that worthwhile people will rise to meet your demands. You can't buy love, but you can win hearts through loyalty and commitment. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are capable, precise and curious. You are mindful and intuitive.

✪: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ✪✪: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ✪✪✪: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ✪✪✪✪: Aim high; start new projects. ✪✪✪✪✪: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	4		7				3	
	3		4		2			6
	1	7				5		
		5					9	2
9	6	3		2				
	2				3			
4	9	6	8			7		
	5			7				
3	7		2	9		6		

Difficulty: ★★★ 8/22

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

4	9	3	7	5	8	1	6	2
6	7	1	3	4	2	8	5	9
5	8	2	6	9	1	4	3	7
1	2	5	4	8	9	6	7	3
7	4	8	2	6	3	5	9	1
9	3	6	5	1	7	2	4	8
3	5	7	8	2	6	9	1	4
8	6	9	1	3	4	7	2	5
2	1	4	9	7	5	3	8	6

Difficulty: ★★★ 8/21

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WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

'IF I HAD A MILLION DOLLARS ...' Solution: 6 letters

L	C	S	G	E	S	I	T	A	R	E	S	A	M	S
R	A	N	W	H	T	E	D	E	B	T	F	R	E	E
T	R	O	A	C	A	F	E	R	R	A	R	I	R	P
I	S	I	G	S	R	I	S	P	E	N	D	Y	C	A
N	I	T	O	R	T	H	R	S	W	A	E	Y	E	C
V	N	A	N	O	O	O	S	I	L	N	R	R	D	S
E	I	C	E	P	K	E	N	D	O	Ⓗ	U	E	E	D
S	H	A	V	N	N	S	E	M	D	Ⓒ	T	T	S	N
T	G	V	A	I	D	K	C	I	A	Ⓘ	U	T	B	A
M	R	B	S	R	A	L	A	A	H	Ⓡ	F	O	E	L
E	O	U	E	N	A	M	E	E	S	O	T	L	N	E
N	B	A	E	R	O	L	E	X	V	I	U	I	Z	V
T	M	R	E	N	O	V	A	T	I	O	N	S	N	A
S	A	N	D	O	N	A	T	I	O	N	M	O	E	R
B	L	S	L	L	I	B	Y	A	P	L	A	N	S	T

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Aston Martin, Bank, Barenaked Ladies, Business, Cars, Casino, Debt-free, Diamonds, Donation, Dreams, Ferrari, Future, Goal, G-Wagon, House, Investments, Lamborghini, Landscape, Lottery, Maserati, McLaren, Mercedes Benz, Money, Move, Pay Bills, Plans, Porsche, Renovations, Rich, Rolex, Save, Shop, Spend, Start, Travel, Vacations, Wins

Yesterday's Answer: Path to War

For WONDERWORD apps, books & more, visit Wonderword.com, or call 1-855-232-2367.

Austin Gomber pitches 7 strong innings, Rockies hold on to beat Nationals

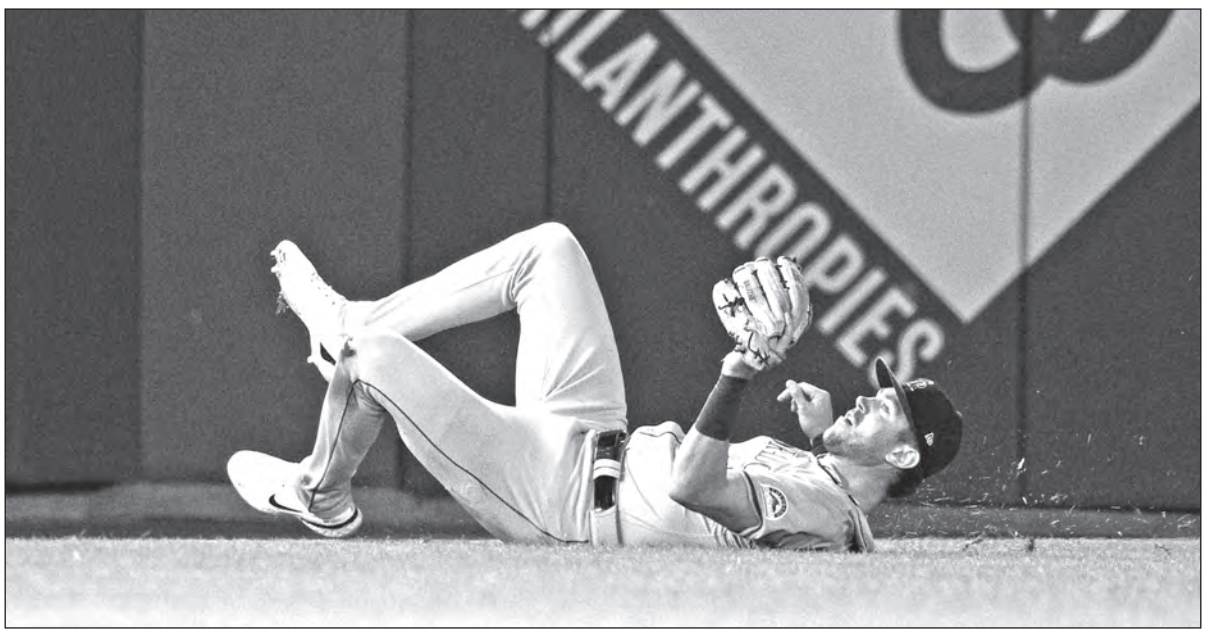
WASHINGTON (AP)—Austin Gomber gave up one run and three hits in seven innings, Ryan McMahon had two hits and drove in a run, and the Colorado Rockies beat the Washington Nationals 3-1 on Tuesday night.

Brenton Doyle and Ezequiel Tovar each had two hits and scored a run for Colorado, which has won three of its last four.

Gomber (4-8) threw 96 pitches, striking out five and walking two. Angel Chivilli pitched around a one-out walk and single in the ninth for his first career save.

Rockies outfielder Nolan Jones went 1 for 4 with an RBI single in his first game back from the injured list. He was activated Sunday and had been on the IL since July 11 with a lower back strain.

CJ Abrams homered for the Nationals, who were held to five hits and have lost five of their last six games.



AP

Colorado Rockies left fielder Nolan Jones slides on the grass after he caught a fly ball by Washington Nationals' Andres Chaparro for the out during the eighth inning of a baseball game, Tuesday, Aug. 20, 2024, in Washington.

DIAMONDBACKS 3, MARLINS 1

MIAMI (AP)—Corbin Carroll and Lourdes Gurriel Jr. homered to help Eduardo Rodriguez and Arizona beat Miami.

Arizona, which finished with four hits, improved to a major league-best 30-13 since July 1. Carroll also singled and scored on Joc Pederson's base hit, and Geraldo Perdomo walked twice.

Rodriguez allowed one run and six hits over 5 1/3 innings in his third start of the season since being activated from the injured list on Aug. 7. Rodriguez (2-0) struck out five and walked one.

Ryan Thompson, A.J. Puk and Justin Martinez combined for 3 2/3 innings of one-hit ball after Rodriguez departed. Martinez worked a perfect ninth for his fourth save in five opportunities.

BLUE JAYS 10, REDS 3

TORONTO (AP)—José Berríos struck out seven in seven innings to win his third straight start, George Springer hit two of Toronto's season-high five home runs and the Blue Jays beat Cincinnati.

Springer launched a two-run drive in the second inning and a solo shot in the fifth to give him 16 homers this season. It was his third multi-homer game of the year and the 24th of his career.

Leo Jiménez also hit a two-run homer, and Alejandro Kirk and Spencer Horwitz had back-to-back shots for Toronto. It was the third time this season the Blue Jays hit consecutive home runs.

All five homers came against Carson Spiers (4-5). The right-hander set career worsts by allowing 13 hits and 10 runs, nine earned, in 4 1/3 innings. The outing raised his ERA from 4.55 to 5.43.

Toronto's five-homer outburst came a year to the day since the Blue Jays last hit as many, connecting five times off Reds right-hander Hunter Greene in a 10-3 win at Cincinnati. Springer also homered that day.

BRAVES 3, PHILLIES 1

ATLANTA (AP)—Marcell Ozuna homered and Reynaldo López pitched five strong innings in his return from the injured list, leading Atlanta to a win over Philadelphia.

In the opener of a crucial three-game series, the six-time reigning division champs pulled within six games of Philadelphia. The rivals will meet six more times over the next 12 games, a stretch that gives the depleted Braves a chance to further close the gap.

Ozuna and López provided a huge lift for Atlanta, which learned a day earlier that slugging third baseman Austin Riley will miss at least the rest of the regular season with a broken hand.

PIRATES 4, RANGERS 0

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP)—Mitch Keller limited Texas to three singles through seven-plus innings following his two poorest starts of the season to lead Pittsburgh to a win over the Rangers.

Keller (11-7) struck out nine to equal a season high and walked none while throwing 98 pitches as the Pirates won for the fourth time in their last six games following a season-long 10-game losing streak.

He left after allowing a leadoff single to Josh Jung in the eighth. He also gave up a two-out, opposite-field single to Josh Smith in the fourth inning and a leadoff single by Carson Kelly in the sixth.

Keller gave up 15 runs in his previous nine innings in an 8-2 loss at San Diego last Wednesday and a 9-5 loss at the Los Angeles Dodgers on Aug. 9.

Aroldis Chapman and David Bednar closed out Pittsburgh's eighth shutout of the year.

ORIOLES 9, METS 5

NEW YORK (AP)—James McCann homered and drove in three runs against his former team to help power Baltimore past the New York Mets.

Anthony Santander opened the scoring in the first inning with his 37th homer, a two-run shot off struggling Jose Quintana (6-9). Ramón Urías and Eloy Jiménez also had RBIs for the Orioles, who began the day a half-game behind the first-place New York Yankees in the AL East.

Dean Kremer (6-9) gave up one run over six innings for the second straight start. He permitted just two hits and struck out seven.

ROCKIES 3, NATIONALS 1

WASHINGTON (AP)—Austin Gomber gave up one run and three hits in seven innings, Ryan McMahon had two hits and drove in a run, and Colorado beat Washington.

Brenton Doyle and Ezequiel Tovar each had two hits and scored a run for Colorado, which has won three of its last four.

Gomber (4-8) threw 96 pitches, striking out five and walking two. Angel Chivilli pitched around a one-out walk and single in the ninth for his first career save.

Rockies outfielder Nolan Jones went 1 for 4 with an RBI single in his first game back from the injured list. He was activated Sunday and had been on the IL since July 11 with a lower back strain.

CJ Abrams homered for the Nationals, who were held to five hits and have lost five of their last six games.

BREWERS 3, CARDINALS 2

ST. LOUIS (AP)—Frankie Montas pitched seven sparkling innings and Devin Williams escaped a jam in the ninth, helping Milwaukee beat St. Louis Cardinals.

Montas (6-8) allowed one hit—Alec Burleson's single in the fourth—in his fourth start since he was acquired in a trade with Cincinnati. He struck out three and walked one.

William Contreras had three hits for the NL Central-leading Brewers, who earned their sixth straight win. Sal Frelick added two hits.

CUBS 3, TIGERS 1

CHICAGO (AP)—Cody Bellinger hit a two-run double and Dansby Swanson homered to lift the Cubs over Detroit.

Bellinger went 2 for 4 to lead Chicago. Javier Assad (6-3) pitched 5 2/3 innings for the Cubs, allowing just one run on six hits and striking out seven.

Tyson Miller, Drew Smyly and Porter Hodge threw 3 1/3 scoreless innings, each allowing a hit, to close the game. Hodge earned his second save.

Detroit fell despite strong performances at the plate by Dillon Dingler and Spencer Torkelson. Dingler hit in the Tigers' lone run with an RBI single and added a triple. Torkelson was 4 for 4.

ANGELS 9, ROYALS 5

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP)—Tyler Anderson outlasted Cole Ragans in a matchup of All-Star pitchers, Zach Neto hit a go-ahead homer for Los Angeles, and the Angels beat Kansas City to end the Royals' five-game winning streak.

Anthony Rendon, Kevin Pillar and Logan O'Hoppe drove in two runs apiece for the Angels, who had lost three straight and six of seven overall. Nolan Schanuel walked three times, and Jo Adell and Jack Lopez each drove in a run.

RED SOX 6, ASTROS 5

HOUSTON (AP)—Jarren Duran went 4 for 4, capped by a tiebreaking homer with two outs in the eighth inning that sent Boston to a win over Houston.

The game was tied at 5 when Duran drove a fastball from Caleb Ort (1-1) over the wall in left-center, matching his season high for hits. He also walked once and scored three times.

Triston Casas, who had two hits and three RBIs, put Boston up 3-0 in the first inning with a two-run homer. Casas is 7 for 20 since coming off the injured list Friday after missing 98 games with a left rib strain.

GUARDIANS 9, YANKEES 5, 12 INNINGS

NEW YORK (AP)—Pinch-hitter Lane Thomas delivered a go-ahead double to spark a six-run 12th inning, and Cleveland outlasted the New York Yankees in the longest major league game this season.

Both teams began the night in first place, and the tense opener of their three-game series had an October feel in a potential playoff preview at Yankee Stadium.

Juan Soto and Aaron Judge hit back-to-back homers in the first, but Cleveland came right back and the game was tied at 3 after four innings. Despite numerous chances on both sides, neither offense managed to score again until the 12th.

RAYS 1, ATHLETICS 0

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP)—Jose Siri homered with two outs in the eighth inning to break up a scoreless pitchers' duel and help Shane Baz earn his first victory in more than two years, and Tampa Bay held off Oakland.

Baz (1-2) allowed three hits, struck out four and walked three over 7 2/3 innings to win for the first time since July 3, 2022, at Toronto. The right-hander missed the 2023 season recovering from Tommy John surgery.

Siri's solo drive to center for his 15th home run chased Oakland starter Joey Estes (5-6), who hung tough battling Baz as the A's drew 4,377 fans coming off shutouts in two of their last three games.

GIANTS 4, WHITE SOX 1

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Robbie Ray matched his season high with nine strikeouts, San Francisco beat the Chicago White Sox.

After failing to get out of the first inning in his last start against the Braves, Ray (3-2) limited Chicago to one run and three hits in 6 2/3 innings.

Heliot Ramos drove in two runs as the Giants (65-63) won their third straight game to remain 3 1/2 games behind Atlanta for the final NL wild-card spot.

PADRES 7, TWINS 5

SAN DIEGO (AP)—Jurickson Profar hit a three-run homer in the eighth inning, and San Diego beat Minnesota.

Manny Machado also went deep as San Diego won its second straight against Minnesota in a matchup of playoff contenders. Jake Cronenworth had two hits and scored two runs.

The Padres trailed 5-3 before Profar drove a low slider from Steven Okert (3-2) deep to left. Donovan Solano and Luis Arraez singled ahead of Profar's 20th homer.

Xander Bogaerts tacked on an RBI double against Ronny Henriquez, giving San Diego a 7-5 lead.

DODGERS 6, MARINERS 3

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Pinch-hitter Jason Heyward broke an eighth-inning tie with a three-run homer and the Los Angeles Dodgers rallied for a victory over Seattle.

Heyward lined a high 99 mph fastball from All-Star closer Andrés Muñoz (2-5) over the short wall in the right-field corner to give the Dodgers their first lead. It was his second pinch-hit homer this season and the third of his career.

Will Smith got aboard with one out when he was hit by a pitch, and Max Muncy walked. Tommy Edman then struck out looking to set the stage for Heyward.

Muncy and Gavin Lux both homered for the second consecutive game. The NL West-leading Dodgers have won three straight and four of five.

Vikings DC Flores says he was hurt by Tagovailoa's sharp criticism

EAGAN, Minn. (AP)—Two Minnesota Vikings starters flanked defensive coordinator Brian Flores as he prepared to address blunt criticism of his character and coaching style delivered publicly by Miami Dolphins quarterback Tua Tagovailoa, a sign of solidarity Flores relished from his current team while acknowledging he was hurt by the bit-

AP

Miami Dolphins quarterback Tua Tagovailoa speaks during a news conference after a preseason NFL football game against the Washington Commanders, Saturday, Aug. 17, 2024, in Miami Gardens, Fla.

» But wishes Dolphins QB well

ing appraisal from his most prominent former player.

After Tagovailoa's commentary about their time together with the Dolphins was aired the day before, Flores took a high-road approach to his regularly scheduled news conference Tuesday at Vikings headquarters.

"I'm genuinely happy for the success that Tua's had, and I really wish him nothing but the best," Flores said. "I think player relationships are very important to me. I think that's kind of the foundation of coaching. I got into coaching because I was impacted as a young guy by my high school coaches, my college coaches, even going all the way back to Pop Warner. I got into coaching because I want to make that same type of positive impact."

Tagovailoa said on "The Dan LeBatard Show" that he has thrived with Dolphins head coach Mike McDaniel because of the difference in how he's been treated and how the experience with Flores eroded his self-esteem. Tagovailoa, who signed a four-year contract extension last month to solidify himself as the face of the Dolphins for the foreseeable future, said in the interview he has needed the past two years to train the negative thoughts out of his head.

"I don't care who you are. You can be the president of the United States. You have a terrible person that's telling you things that you don't want to hear or that you probably shouldn't ever hear, you're going to start to believe that about yourself, and so that's sort of like what ended up happening," Tagovailoa said.

Asked specifically about that rebuke, Flores said, "I'm human, so that hit me in a way that I wouldn't say was positive for me. At the same time, I've got to use that and say, 'Hey, how can I grow from that? How can I be better?' That's really where I'm at from that standpoint. Do I feel like that's me? No. How can I grow from that situation and create a world where that's not the case that anyone says that about Brian Flores?"

Flores rose through the New England Patriots organization under the hard-driving, no-nonsense head coach Bill Belichick, departing for Miami after their most recent Super Bowl championship in the 2018 season. Flores led the Dolphins for three years, going 24-25. Shortly after he was fired, Flores, who is Black, filed a discrimination lawsuit against the NFL alleging racist hiring practices. About 2½ years later, the case is still pending in the legal system.

After one season as an assistant with the Pittsburgh Steelers, Flores was hired to run Minnesota's defense and made a marked impact in his first year. Tagovailoa, the fifth overall pick in the 2020 draft, passed for career bests of 4,624 yards and 29 touchdowns for the Dolphins last season.

The Dolphins and Vikings, in opposite conferences, aren't scheduled to play each other again until 2026 in Minnesota, but Flores said he has considered contacting Tagovailoa and trying to clear the air between them.

"Maybe if that time arises or is available, I'm certainly open to that. But I've got a lot of other things going on too as he does," Flores said. "I'm just really focused on the guys here and the work that we're putting in here."

Two of those guys, safety Josh Metellus and defensive tackle Harrison Phillips, stood on either side of him Tuesday at the lectern at the beginning of his session.

"Just letting him know we're behind him," Metellus said.

Said Phillips as he walked away: "You're a real one, Flo!"

Flores was later asked if he viewed the time with the Dolphins through the same lens as Tagovailoa.

"I've done a lot of reflecting on the situation and the communication. I think there's things that I can do better, for sure, and I've grown in that way and I've tried to apply the things that I can do better and the things that I've learned over the last two or three years," Flores said. "I would say over the long haul I've had a lot of great relationships over my 21-year career in the league—players, coaches, personnel, equipment, people in the kitchen. Really, across the board, I've had a lot of great relationships, and I'm going to continue to do that. But I'm also always looking to get better and evolve."

Panthers QB Bryce Young says he's 'comfortable' in new offense even if he doesn't play in preseason

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP)—Panthers quarterback Bryce Young isn't concerned if he doesn't take a snap in the preseason.

The No. 1 overall pick in 2023 is coming off a rookie season in which he went 2-14 as a starter and ranked near the bottom of the league in most passing categories. And he enters Year 2 having been forced to learn a different offense under new coach Dave Canales.

Despite all that, Canales elected to hold Young out of Carolina's first two preseason games.

"They manage the team and they know what they're doing," Young said of the coaching staff. "For me and for us (as a team), we trust whatever they want to do. Whatever their calls are, we are comfortable with that."

Canales previously coached Geno Smith in as an assistant with Seattle and Baker Mayfield as Tampa Bay's offensive coordinator, getting solid performances out of both quarterbacks, before getting hired by Carolina.

The Panthers finished installing their offensive scheme about two weeks ago, and Young feels he has a strong understanding of what's expected from him.

That's why he said he's OK if the doesn't play in Saturday's final exhibition game at the Buffalo Bills.

"I will be comfortable either way," Young said. "I know they are not just waking up and rolling the dice. There is a reason for everything and they are very calculated in what they are doing. They have our best interest at heart. They have had success as a start throughout different places, so I will be comfortable whatever the call is."

Canales said Tuesday it's too early in the week to make a decision on whether he'll play his starters against the Bills, but added that he is "open" to the idea.

Bills coach Sean McDermott won't be playing his starters.

Canales said that won't impact his decision. He said it will depend more on the health of the players around Young.

"We have to look at what does that (starting) group look like if we put everybody out there?" Canales said. "Are there enough of those guys (healthy) to say, 'Man, this is valuable for us to get these reps?' Once we start to the get into the depth of different positions it kind of forces our hand sometimes on can we play guys, or do we need to play them."

Thus far, none of Carolina's starters have played in preseason losses to the New England Patriots and New York Jets. The Panthers held out 33 players against the Patriots and 38 against the Jets, prioritizing injury concerns over developing chemistry.

NFL teams have taken different approaches to playing QBs in the preseason.

Patrick Mahomes has seen action for the Kansas City Chiefs and Josh Allen has been on the field for the Bills. On the other hand, Deshaun Watson has yet to make his debut for Cleveland.

Canales has been impressed with how Young has picked up the offense.

And he's confident that the work Young has done in training camp and in last week's joint practice with the New York Jets has aided in his development.

Canales said if Young plays this week, he will be looking to see him operate the offense efficiently.

"I want to see things run smoothly and I want to see the communication, the in-between-drives conversation, all of that stuff is so valuable," Canales said.

Browns still undecided if Watson will make preseason debut this week vs. Seahawks

BEREA, Ohio (AP)—Deshaun Watson's expected preseason debut is on hold.

Browns coach Kevin Stefanski said Tuesday that he's still undecided on whether Watson, who hasn't played since breaking his right shoulder in November, will take any snaps in Saturday's exhibition finale at Seattle.

Watson has been kept out of Cleveland's first two preseason games. Last week, Stefanski said the plan was for Watson to face the Seahawks, but now that isn't so certain.

"All of our starters should expect to play and then we'll determine who does or doesn't, how many plays they do," Stefanski said before practice. "In particular with Deshaun, I want to take in all the information this week and really make a final determination later in the week."

Stefanski said he'll weigh all factors, including Cleveland's current injury issues at offensive tackle.

The Browns are without starters Jedrick Wills Jr. and Jack Conklin, and three backup tackles were injured in Saturday's exhibition against Minnesota.

"All things factor into every decision for all of our players," Stefanski said. "Truthfully, we go player by player and what we're trying to figure out is what do they need to get ready for a 17-game season. Every determination is based specifically on that player."

Watson's input will also go into the final decision, Stefanski said.

The 28-year-old Watson has played in just 12 games in two seasons with the Browns. He was suspended 11 games in 2020, and he made six starts last season before undergoing surgery to repair a fractured glenoid (socket) bone in his throwing arm.

Watson has thrown in all but one practice during training camp. Last week, he said it wasn't imperative for him to play in the preseason, and that he was on track to face Dallas in the Sept. 8 season opener.

Watson has been cleared for contact. Stefanski was asked if he feels it's necessary to see Watson take a hit before facing the Cowboys.

"I don't," he said. "He's played a lot of football. He's been tackled a lot, but he's confident."

Tennis star Sinner tested positive for steroid twice but will not be suspended

By HOWARD FENDRICH
AP Tennis Writer

Top-ranked tennis player Jannik Sinner tested positive twice for an anabolic steroid in March but will not be suspended because the International Tennis Integrity Agency (ITIA) determined the banned performance-enhancer entered his system unintentionally through a massage from his physiotherapist.

The ITIA announced the case's resolution on Tuesday and said Sinner will lose the $325,000 in prize money and 400 rankings points he earned at the tournament in Indian Wells, California, where his first positive drug test happened.

"I will now put this challenging and deeply unfortunate period behind me," Sinner said in a statement posted on social media. "I will continue to do everything I can to ensure I continue to comply with the ITIA's anti-doping (program) and I have a team around me that are meticulous in their own compliance."

Sinner won the Cincinnati Open on Monday and will be among the favorites at the U.S. Open, which starts in New York next week. Sinner made his debut at No. 1 in the ATP rankings in June and is considered among the top stars of the new generation in men's tennis, along with Carlos Alcaraz.

Sinner, an Italian who turned 23 on Friday, won the Australian Open in January for his first Grand Slam title. He reached the semifinals at the French Open in June and the quarterfinals at Wimbledon in July, before sitting out the Paris Olympics, saying he had tonsilitis.

During the Indian Wells hard-court event in March, Sinner tested positive for low levels of a metabolite of Clostebol, a banned anabolic steroid that can be used for ophthalmological and dermatological use. It's the same drug for which San Diego Padres star Fernando Tatis Jr. was suspended by MLB in 2022.

Sinner tested positive again eight days later in an out-of-competition sample.

He was provisionally suspended because of those test results, but he successfully appealed and was allowed to keep competing on tour.

AP

Jannik Sinner, of Italy, plays a shot to Andrey Rublev, of Russia, during their quarterfinal match at the National Bank Open tennis tournament in Montreal, Saturday, Aug. 10, 2024.

Sinner said his test results happened because his fitness trainer purchased an over-the-counter spray in Italy that contained Clostebol and gave it to Sinner's physiotherapist to treat a cut on the physiotherapist's finger. The physiotherapist then treated Sinner while not wearing gloves.

The ITIA said it accepted Sinner's explanation and determined the violation was not intentional. An independent panel held a hearing on Aug. 15 and "determined a finding of No Fault or Negligence applied in the case, resulting in no period of ineligibility," according to the ITIA.

ITIA CEO Karen Moorhouse said "Sinner and his representatives fully cooperated" with her group's "thorough investigation."

The World Anti-Doping Agency and Italy's anti-doping body both are allowed to appeal the decision.

Because of the in-competition test result, Sinner must forfeit the ranking points and prize money he earned by reaching the semifinals at Indian Wells.

"We are encouraged that no fault or negligence has been found on Jannik Sinner's part. We would also like to acknowledge the robustness of the investigation process and independent evaluation of the facts under the Tennis Anti-Doping Program (TADP), which has allowed him to continue competing," the ATP Tour said in a statement. "This has been a challenging matter for Jannik and his team, and underscores the need for players and their entourages to take utmost care in the use of products or treatments. Integrity is paramount in our sport."

JASON

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Guam. He finished sixth as well with a time of 3:10.90. First place was New Zealand's Jake Suitauloa at 2:25.60, second was Qua'sil Sulkanum of the U.S. at 2:36.89, and third was Australia's Mitchell Olds at 2:37.09.

For Ball, she shared the waters with the best paddlers from France, Tahiti, Brazil, the U.S., Australia, Wallis & Futuna, and Canada. She clocked in seventh place out of eight with a time of 3:44.01. First place was France's Isabelle Genest at 3:02.24, second place went to Tahiti's Mahia Berdichevski Poroi at 3:10.24, and third was Brazil's Daniela Dillan at 3:12.85.

Tarkong said that he did his best in the master's event—despite being one of the oldest competitors. He said that the paddlers were over 6 feet tall and with many more years of experience in the sport and in the championships.

"I don't want to say I was out of my league, but it was definitely a challenge—a little bit intimidating, but I didn't care. I did my best. The water was rough," he said about the race.

For the open category, he said in an interview before competing that he will do his best in the race against the top paddlers in the world. Even with that in mind, he said, "I didn't come this far not to participate, so I'm going to do my best. I'm going to be racing the top sprinters, so that's kind of like the professional heat. I qualify simply because I'm the only one from the NMI, so I'll do my best. But like I said, there's other paddlers in the NMI who are stronger and faster than me in this category, so it was an opportunity."

He then said that competing in the championships was an honor. "I've been able to network and learn from other paddlers from Tahiti and Hawaii, and I've also met some makers of canoes."

As for Ball, she said that the competition was great. She said she learned to keep calm, stay focused, compete with herself, and celebrate her moment at the finish line.

Competing alongside the best women paddlers in the world was "exciting and nervous at the same time. Proud to be one of them!"

The conditions, she said, were challenging. "The water and wind were challenging, but it could be anywhere—we just had to learn to adjust. I just wish we had more time to practice the course before the race days though. I had a great start with everyone, which I am really proud of. People cheered and supported each other, no matter the result. We were all happy to be present and celebrate the sport."

Her main takeaway from the competition, she said, was to never stop learning. "We will take the va'a clinic with the best paddler from New Zealand, Tupuria King, before we leave Hilo, so we get more knowledge and to practice more in the water, although I have to balance between work, being a mother, and training."

As for the upcoming Northern Marianas Micronesia Cup, she said, "hopefully we will get more support from the community to help each other and accommodate the visitor paddlers." In that competition, she said she will compete with confidence, pride, and have fun in between.

She then thanked her daughter, friends, and family who supported them. "Thank you and we appreciate you. Until next time, World Sprint 2026 in Singapore!"

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the tournament will start at 7am.

This year's awards banquet will be held at the Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan Ataari cultural dinner show at 5:30pm. The tournament follows a blackjack double Peoria format.

Krishnan also acknowledged the nearly $110,000 in in-kind donations made to the tournament to date. In addition to the hole-in-one prizes, other donors giving at least $1,000 in in-kind donations include SKECHERS, KSPN2, *Marianas Variety*, KCNM-KZMI, Power 99, Pacific Saipan, IT&E, Magic 100.3 KWAW, H-Mart, iShop, and Pacific Saipan. Additional in-kind sponsors are Big Boyz Marine, Herman's Modern Bakery, Saipan Fresh Adventure, Monster Pizza, Sasamo, Pacific Wine & Spirit Inc., Pacific Home Appliance, WSTCO, DPA Cart Mart, Crystal Ecology 3M-Saipan, Tasi Tours & Transportation, Takumi, Kinpachi Japanese Restaurant, Casa Urashima, Tokyo Mart, SeaTouch, Century Tours, D&Q Saipan Int'l., Sakura Marine Sports, Naked Fish, Kuriya, The Old B Bank, Oleai Beach Bar & Grill, Tribes Bar, MARPAC, and Hao's Air Conditioning.

For more information, contact tournament chair Das Krishnan at das.krishnan@ihg.com. ***(PR)***

EAFF

NMI U15 Women's National Soccer Team player Elyza Brillo goes up against a Hong Kong player in a fight for possession during their rain-soaked match in the EAFF Fifa Forward Programme EAFF U15 Women's Championship 2024 in Dalian, China last Tuesday.

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lead, immediately followed by another goal from Lei Ngai Moi to quickly make it 4-0 at the end of the first half.

The first half came and went as the second half welcomed clearer skies—but the pitch was still dotted with puddles. The NMI team tried to regroup, push for execution, and have a more stable ball security in the last half of the match. However, to open it up, Ching Lam Jaylynn Chong found an opening in the 44th minute to make it 5-0.

The young NMI team's spirit didn't dwindle though as they fought until the very end and made attacks toward Hong Kong's goal as much as they could. They were just stopped by the keeper's and defender's defensive tactics which didn't allow them a single goal.

Three more goals would score for Hong Kong—King Sum Hui in the 52nd, one more by Chong in the 65th, and the eighth goal by Lei Ngai Moi in the last minute of the match.

In their debut of the tourney last Friday, the NMI lost to Macau, 1-2, and ended in a scoreless, 0-0 draw against Mongolia last Saturday.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Baltimore	74	53	.583	–
New York	73	53	.579	½
Boston	66	59	.528	7
Tampa Bay	63	62	.504	10
Toronto	59	67	.468	14½
Central Division				
Cleveland	73	52	.584	–
Kansas City	70	56	.556	3½
Minnesota	70	56	.556	3½
Detroit	61	65	.484	12½
Chicago	30	97	.236	44
West Division				
Houston	68	57	.544	–
Seattle	64	63	.504	5
Texas	58	69	.457	11
Los Angeles	54	72	.429	14½
Oakland	54	72	.429	14½

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Philadelphia	73	52	.584	–
Atlanta	67	58	.536	6
New York	65	61	.516	8½
Washington	56	70	.444	17½
Miami	46	80	.365	27½
Central Division				
Milwaukee	73	52	.584	–
Chicago	62	64	.492	11½
St. Louis	61	64	.488	12
Cincinnati	61	65	.484	12½
Pittsburgh	59	66	.472	14
West Division				
Los Angeles	75	52	.591	–
San Diego	72	55	.567	3
Arizona	71	56	.559	4
San Francisco	65	63	.508	10½
Colorado	47	79	.373	27½

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Austin Gomber pitches 7 strong innings, Rockies hold on to beat Nationals

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Saipan Tribune
Sports

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Jason, Pip ends paddling efforts in Hilo

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CNMI paddlers from the Marianas Outrigger Club, Pipit Ball, left, and Jason Tarkong, right, pose with manager and fellow paddler Ashley Pangelinan, center, and the CNMI flag during the opening ceremony of the IVF Va'a World Elite and Club Sprint Championship 2024 last week.

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

Marianas Outrigger Club veteran athletes Jason Tarkong and Pipit Ball ended their efforts in the IVF Va'a World Elite and Club Sprint Championship 2024 last Monday.

The championships started on Aug. 13 and will end on Aug. 24.

Tarkong took on the master 50 men V1 500m sprints last Sunday, and the open men V1 500m sprints last Monday. Ball, on the other hand, competed in the open women V1 500m sprints last Monday.

The 59-year-old Tarkong paddled alongside younger competitors in the master's sprints last Sunday and finished sixth place with a time of 2:57.94. First place was New Zealand's Ross Gilray at 2:30.25, second was Wallis & Futuna's Sylvain Kikanoi with a time of 2:32.85, and third was Australia's John Goller at 2:35.75.

In the much more elite open category, he paddled against the best of the best from New Zealand, the U.S., Australia, Rapa Nui, Chile, and

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Docomo Pacific is Deluxe Sponsor of HANMI golf tourney

Docomo Pacific is teaming up with the Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands to make the 22nd Annual HANMI Charity Classic Golf Tournament "better together."

Docomo has signed on as a Deluxe Package Sponsor for the tournament slated for Saturday, Aug. 24, at Coral Ocean Resort in Saipan.

"We'd like to thank Docomo signing on as sponsor and for their generous contribution to this year's tournament," said tournament chair Das Krishnan. "It can be seen from their contributions through the years to both the HANMI golf tournament and other agencies and organizations that they are a team player when it comes to making our community a better place to live and work. Thank you, Docomo!"

Hole-in-one prizes for the tournament include a 2024 Nissan Sentra from Joeten Motors, a 2024 Toyota Tacoma from Atkins Kroll Saipan, $10,000 cash from Pacifica Insurance, and $5,000 cash from Island Training Solutions.

HANMI

Docomo Pacific Brand manager Brent Deleon Guerrero, fourth left, donates $1,200 cash on Aug. 8, 2024, at the Docomo branch office in Gualo Rai to the 22nd Annual HANMI Charity Classic Golf Tournament. The tournament will be held on Aug. 24, 2024, at Coral Ocean Resort. From left, tournament committee member Noriko Watanabe, Docomo Account manager Kevin McCale, committee member William Retardo, Deleon Guerero, committee member Julie Litulumar, Docomo Account manager Joceyln Aldan, committee member Loida Sabanal, Docomo Enterprise manager Joseph Torres, and committee chair Das Krishnan.

Registration is sold out. Optional play is $30 and includes Accurate Drive (hole No. 9) and four chances for Nearest to the Pin (holes No. 3, 7, 13, and 17). Showtime is 6am, and

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HK blanks NMI, 8-0

EAFF

The starting 11 of the NMI U15 Women's National Soccer Team against Hong Kong, China, are all smiles during their group photo of the rain-drenched third match in the EAFF Fifa Forward Programme EAFF U15 Women's Championship 2024 in Dalian, China last Tuesday.

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

A heavily rain-soaked pitch became the NMI U15 Women's National Soccer Team's kryptonite as they fell to Hong Kong, China, 0-8, on their third game of the EAFF Fifa Forward Programme EAFF U15 Women's Championship 2024 in Dalian, China last Tuesday.

With their loss, the NMI is now at a 0-1-2, win-draw-loss record. They are set to face off against rival Guam on Friday for their fourth and last match of the tourney.

The rain almost eliminated the passing game as both teams struggled to traverse the pitch and maintain possession. But as the rain fell steadily, Tsz Yau Wan found the back of the net early in the third minute for a 1-0 advantage.

Just 10 minutes later, Wan found herself in NMI territory once again and the puddles on the pitch proved to be a hindrance for keeper Maya Jung. She fell short of saving the ball as the water brought her down when she tried to go for a block, which in turn favored Wan as she made an open push to the net and scored the second goal.

The NMI team was now down, 0-2, but that didn't stop them from trying to get back into the game. Multiple pushes were made toward Hong Kong's goal as the rain fell steadily throughout the match, but Hong Kong's defenders—plus the puddles—proved too challenging.

In the 29th minute, Annabel Lucy Yue gave Hong Kong a 3-0

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